

Films • Music • Games • Video CD • Kids

CDi

THE NET ON YOUR SET - HOW TO BROWSE THE WORLD WIDE WEB WITH *CDi*

WIN!

A £200 Philips
Routefinder
in-car navigation
system

SEE PAGE 26
FOR DETAILS

Offers and competitions

Net browser

central

Dave goes surfing

Log on

Setup

Prefs

PHILIPS



to find out how to get your CD-i

onto the

Internet

ring us on

0171 436 8677

Shouldn't

you

be joining in the fun this Christmas?

CD-online

The Net on Your Set

4 News: join the Internet with our fabulous cover disc; 13 new titles from PolyGram; ten copies of the Crayon Factory to be won; Paul Smith exhibition adopts CDi; new high density CD format agreed



In October we brought you news of a new Internet service called CD-Online, which allows you to access the Net through your CDi player.

This issue, we are delighted to offer you the first CD-Online disc regardless of

whether or not you have subscribed to their service. We believe it is well worth a look if you are interested in joining the so-called information superhighway.

There are a number of ways to enjoy the disc. Those of you who already have a CDi player with Digital Video cartridge can choose to watch "Dave" the barman as he surfs the Net, dip into "CDi Central" and check out the complete interactive catalogue or work out how to send an e-mail message. If what you see whets your appetite, then get in touch with CD-Online to get your Internet starter kit.

If you are still a little confused as to what the Internet is all about, fear not. We are publishing a simple Internet guide this month to explain how it came about, what it does and how you can get online. We have also picked out some of our favourite Web sites for you to check out. Once you get started it really is quite simple.

And don't forget to take a look at the CDi Magazine site, which is listed on the CD-Online homepage (<http://www.cd-online.co.uk>.) If you have any questions, grumbles or praise, you can e-mail me directly on andy.clough@dial.pipex.com. I look forward to receiving your comments.

Andy Clough,
Editor



Having trouble with the fiendish Flashback? See p.50

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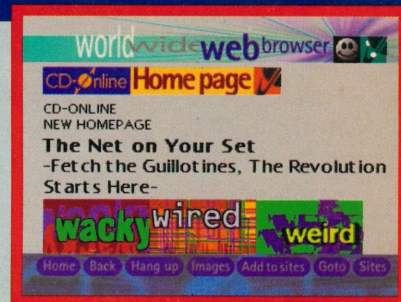
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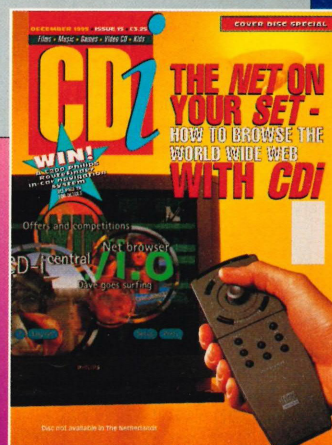
50 Player's Guide: part 1 of our invaluable guide to Flashback



Want to surf the World Wide Web? Just try out our superb cover disc and read all about the Internet on pages 8-17



Remember this? Those classic Abba videos are back to haunt you — see our review on p.38



COVER
Cover designed by Ursula Morgan.
Photography by Mark Tynan.



Above left: the infamous restaurant scene from "When Harry Met Sally". Above right: just dig those lips, Mick. Below: what would you do if you found a dead body in your apartment? See what happens in "Shallow Grave".

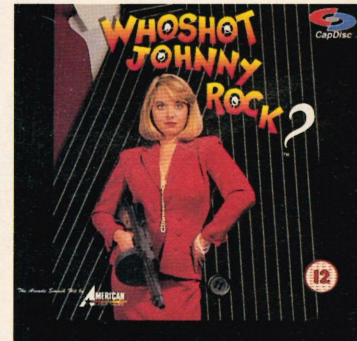


QUIDS

a comedy by rob reiner
when harry met sally...



"One of the comedies of the decade." DAILY MAIL
CAN MEN AND WOMEN BE FRIENDS OR DOES SEX ALWAYS GET IN THE WAY?



UEFA CHAMP



POLYGRAM BOOSTS VIDEO CD CATALOGUE

Entertainment giant PolyGram is strengthening its commitment to Video CD with the release of 13 titles this Christmas.

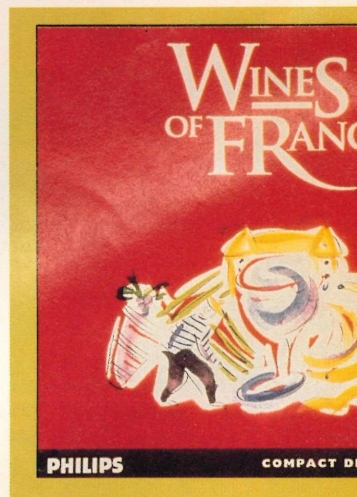
There are three films and ten music titles to choose from. The BAFTA award-winning film "Shallow Grave" is being released exclusively on Video CD three months before it will be available on VHS.

"We believe the initial availability of *Shallow Grave* exclusively on Video CD is yet another first for PolyGram," says Mike Bridger, commercial director of PolyGram Video. "While other companies are still struggling to release titles simultaneously on Video CD and VHS, this is a further demonstration of our total commitment to the Video CD format."

The two other films being released by PolyGram are the hit love story/comedy "When Harry Met Sally", starring Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal, and the psychological thriller "Malice", with Alec Baldwin and Nicole Kidman.

On the music front, PolyGram is releasing ten classic titles on Video CD. Each includes a free copy of the company's Video CD music sampler. The ten titles are: Bon Jovi - Cross Road; The Police - From Outlandos To Synchronicities; The Rolling Stones - Gimme Shelter; Tina Turner - Live In Barcelona; Abba Gold - Greatest Hits; Tommy - The Movie; Dire Straits - Live On The Night; The Who - 30 Year Maximum; Abba - More Abba Gold; Wet Wet Wet - Greatest Hits.

For reviews see pages 18 and 40.



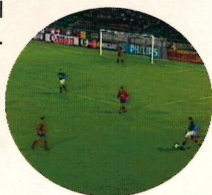
IN THIS CHRISTMAS

Philips Media is launching a "Quids In" cashback promotion on all CDi software sold between December 1 and January 31. The more discs you buy, the higher the refund. Anyone who spends up to £29.99 on a CDi disc will receive £1 back, and those spending over £30 on a disc will receive £2 back. If you buy between three and five discs you can double the value of the refund. For example, buy three discs at £29.99, £24.99 and £34.99 respectively and you qualify for a £4 cashback, which is then doubled to £8. The maximum cashback is £20. To claim your cashback, send in your receipt with the coupon in this magazine. Claimants will automatically be entered into a £1,000 prize draw. See insert in this issue for details.



IONS LEAGUE

Football fans can now check out the history of the UEFA Champions' League and the top 16 teams and players taking part in the 1995/1996 season on CDi. The disc, released this month at £24.99, includes full details on the participation of the British clubs Blackburn Rovers and Glasgow Rangers. There are video sequences of each team in this year's competition and footage of the top 16 players. Users can also keep a record of the match scores. The history section contains video footage of 40 finals with voiceovers narrated by Brian Moore.



Philips Media is teaming up with Mouton Cadet and Victoria Wine to promote its Wines of France CDi disc.

Anyone purchasing the disc before March 31 1996 will receive a voucher offering £1 off a bottle of Mouton Cadet wine redeemable in any Victoria Wine store in the UK.

Wines of France is an interactive reference guide to French wine. The disc, which costs £29.99, teaches you how to understand the French wine industry, charting the best vintage years for each of the regions and providing a glossary of wine terminology.

COMING SOON!

DECEMBER

Films (VCD)

- Films (VCD)
- Star Trek V £17.99
- Star Trek VII £19.99

Games

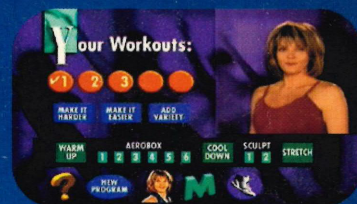
- Lost Eden (DV) £34.99

Kids

- Peanuts:
- Yearn To Learn £19.99
- Crayon Factory £29.99

Info

- UEFA Champions League £24.99



JANUARY 1996

Info

- Kathy Smith's Personal Trainer (DV) £TBA

Games

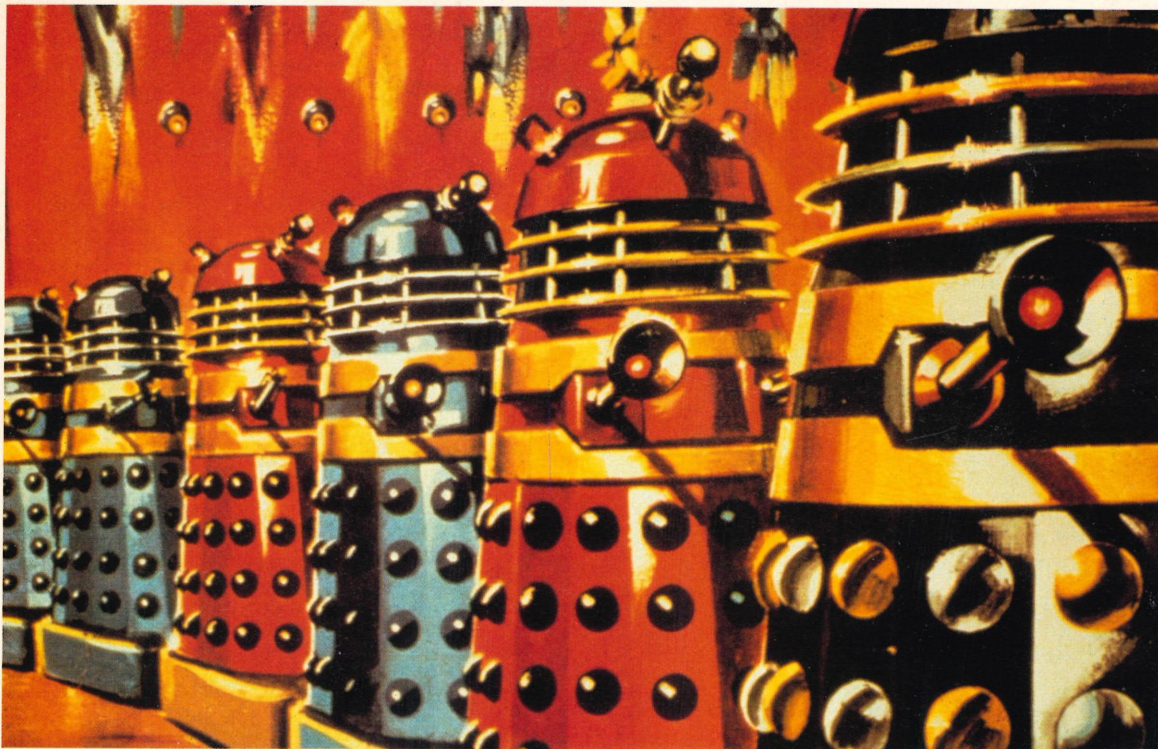
- World Cup Golf £TBA

WIN CRAYON FACTORY ON CDi

British actress Julie Walters has recorded the voiceover for the new CDi kids' title Crayon Factory, which is released this month. Walters told CDi Magazine: "Philips contacted my agent and asked if I would do the voiceover, so I agreed. Interactivity is a new concept for me — I've never seen anything like it. My seven year-old daughter absolutely adores playing with her CDi. It's perfect for her."



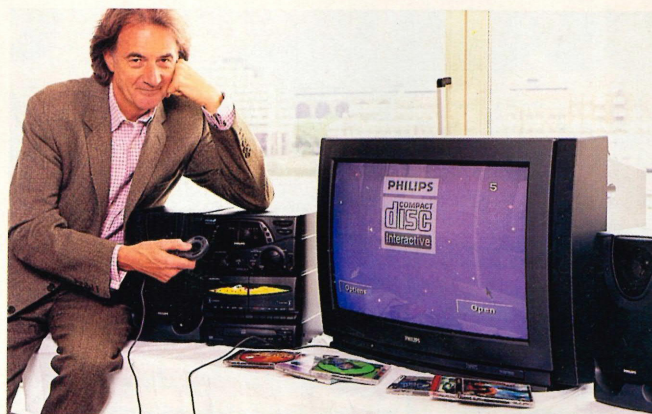
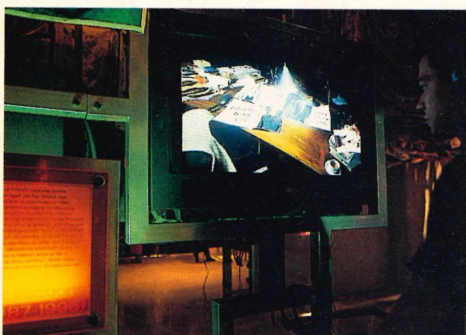
Philips Media is giving away ten copies of Crayon Factory on CDi signed by Julie Walters. To win one, all you have to do is answer the following question: "Which Channel 4 TV series has Julie Walters most recently starred in?" The first ten people to write in with the correct answer will receive a signed disc. Entries on a postcard to CDi Magazine, 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0JE.



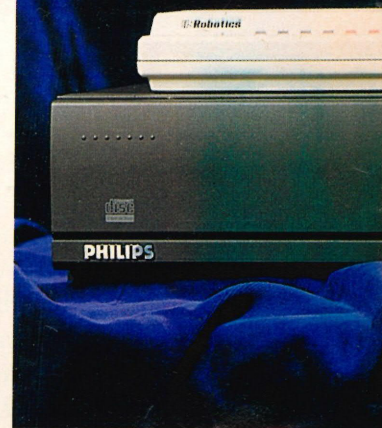
CDi ON THE CATWALK



Top and above: the Daleks and Morecambe and Wise inspired Smith's work. Right: Paul Smith himself. Below: fashion show on CDi



Top British menswear designer Paul Smith has adopted CDi technology for an exhibition of his work at London's Design Museum. "Paul Smith True Brit" is the designer's first exhibition and depicts how he has created an international fashion business with an annual turnover of £85m and 164 shops worldwide. Part of the exhibition features an interactive video of Paul Smith's fashion shows on CDi. The disc was developed by freelance producer Dom Foulsham of Re-ali-TV. Philips is one of several corporate sponsors of the show, which was created by the British designer Tom Dixon with graphics by Alan Aboud, who is responsible for the image of all Paul Smith merchandise. "Paul Smith True Brit" runs until 10 April 1996 and admission costs £4.50 (concessions £3.50). For details, phone 0891 715944.



GET
CDi Magazine has teamed up with CD-Online, the company bringing the Internet to CDi, to give away the first Internet disc with this issue. CD-Online officially launched its service on October 25. Anyone with a CDi player, Digital Video cartridge and ordinary phone line can now join the Internet using

RIVALRY SINGLE

The main players in the race to develop a new generation of high density compact discs have agreed to create a single standard, thus avoiding an expensive format war. Discussions between Philips and Sony and the rival SD Alliance have led to an agreement to develop a single standard for the new format. The basic specifications agreed are for a 0.6mm thick, bonded disc with a single or dual layer and 4.7GB



SURFING

CD-Online's starter kit and CDi disc. The kit comprises a 14.4K modem with power supply, a modem to CDi cable, 15 metre telephone cable, telephone splitter and the first CDi Internet disc. It costs £99 and is available from existing CDi stockists or direct from CD-Online on 0171 436 8677. The monthly rental charge is £11.99, but

there is a special introductory offer of £48 for the first six months' subscription, including the sign-up fee of £20. To find out more, try out our cover disc which will explain the service in detail. And if you want to know all about the Internet, read our special feature which begins on page 8. Happy surfing!

AGREE FORMAT



data capacity per layer. The new format must also be backwards compatible with existing CD formats such as MPEG 1 Video CD. "We believe the agreed upon single format offers users the benefits of a technically superior format while maintaining compatibility with current CD media such as audio CD, video CD,

CD-ROM and CDi," says Henk Bodt, president of Philips Electronics. A name has yet to be agreed for the new format. The first high density CD players are not expected to go on sale until late 1996 or 1997 and are likely to be much more expensive than existing systems such as CDi.

COMPETITION WINNERS



CDi/audio mini stack system r.r.p. £599

The correct answers to October's competition are:

1. Damon Hill

2. Johnny Herbert — British Grand Prix at Silverstone — Italian Grand Prix at Monza

3. Michael Schumacher — Ferrari

AND THE LUCKY WINNERS ARE:

First Prize of Philips 380i:

Anthony Vincent Brown, Godalming

Second Prize of Philips 470

Darryl Samuel, London

Third Prize of Micro Machines Discs

Richard Fisher, Colchester

John Hawker, Thetford

Jo Manning, Bracknell

Paul Stubbs, Peterborough

Steve Sage, Colchester

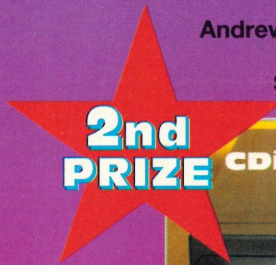
William Mcmillan, Glasgow

J. Sandell, London

Peter Harvey, Rochdale

Andrew Flack, Stanford-le-Hope

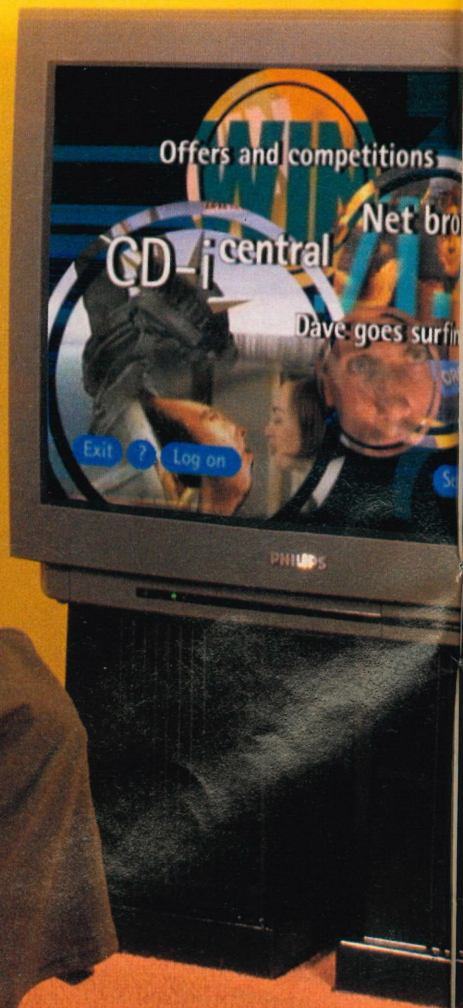
Simon Read, Leeds



GET THE NET...

You can't have escaped hearing about the Internet, but what exactly is it and what sort of information is out there?

JASON ALESI investigates



Figures for the amount of people on the Internet change nearly every day. At the last reasonably reliable count, approximately three million computers were connected to it and about 30 million people had access, but that number is said to be increasing at the rate of one million people per month.

It's a huge figure, but why are so many people going online? I mean, what's so wonderful about the whole thing? The key here is information. A good proportion of all human knowledge is now stored in computers and those computers in turn are finding themselves connected to the Internet. When you log-on you can connect almost instantly to those computers, wherever they are in the world, and plunder their memory banks to find out everything from who starred in "The Dam Busters" to the state of the current Space Shuttle mission. You can also join in special interest discussion groups which cover the whole range of human hobbies and interests, or send electronic mail across the world, if not quite instantly (it normally takes a few hours), then a lot quicker than normal post and an awful lot cheaper than an international phone call.

The normal analogy is that it's like having the world's most extensive library sitting in your home, but it all goes a bit further than that. That library is also full of people bickering and gossiping among themselves, swapping recipes, insults, conspiracy theories and anything else they fancy. When people refer to the Internet as the virtual community, they're not joking.

THE HISTORY

The web of computers that makes up the Net has its origins in the DARPA (Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency NET) system set up back in 1969 by the US military. Four computers in different geographic locations were connected up allowing the defence scientists involved to swap informa-

tion easily and quickly. By 1972, its name had changed to ARPANET and the network had grown to encompass 37 computers.

The scientists had also started to send each other e-mail to their private mail boxes along with the standard military information and by the early 1980s the system had grown to such an extent that the military traffic was shunted off to its own specialist network. In 1984 the National Science Foundation established NSFNET.

This linked five massively expensive supercomputer centres together and made the information on the network accessible to any educational facility that needed it.

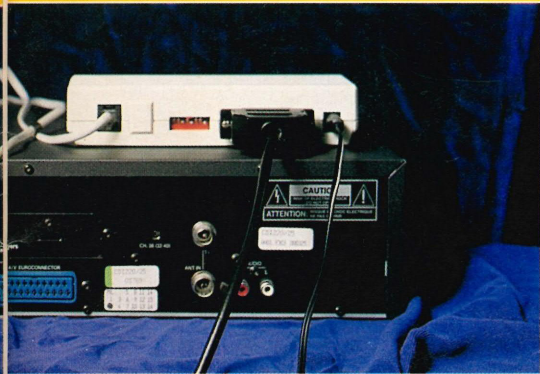
In 1987 this system's popularity caused it to be radically overhauled and at the same time it was thrown open to any educational establishment, government employee, or research organisation which thought it might be useful. By 1990, the Internet as we know it now was well and truly into its birthing pains.

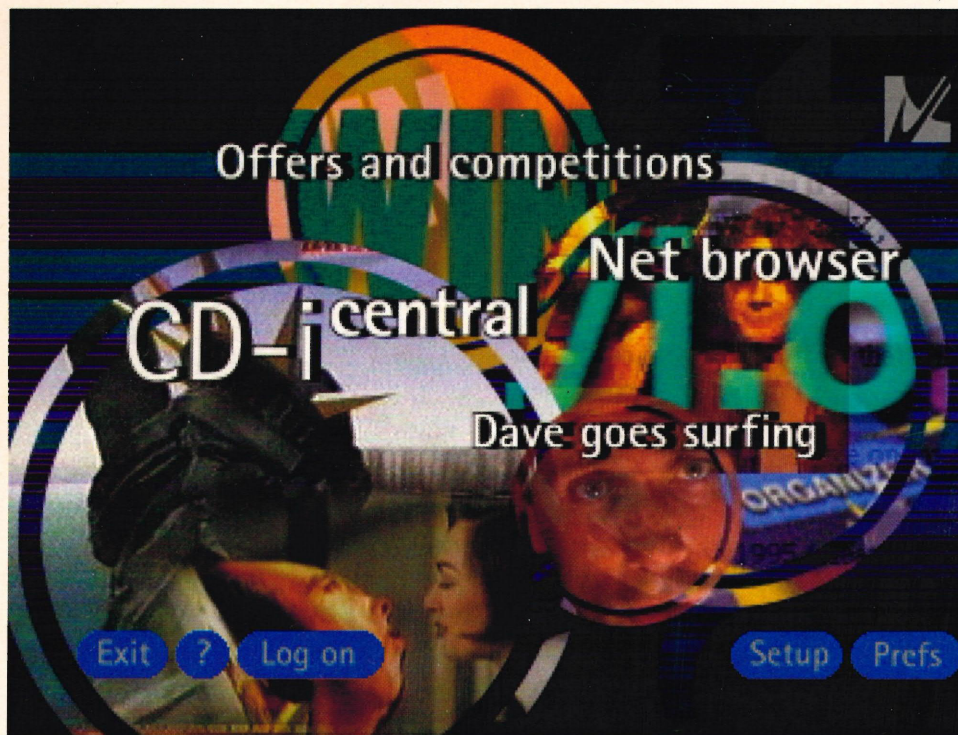
Three crucial decisions in its history shaped what it has become today. The first dates from the ARPANET system, where the network was deliberately designed to withstand outages (loss of service) and reroute round them. The second was a cost factor in setting up NSFNET. Linking the supercomputer centres to other computers via direct lines was prohibitively expensive, so chains were constructed with computers forwarding messages to their neighbours.

This led to the people on the system starting to swap info amongst themselves and the huge leap in its popularity and usefulness.

Lastly? Well, the decision to establish certain protocols in data transfer was rather handy.

These have meant that any computer, as long as there is software available to convert its native format into these protocols, can talk to any other type. Thus your CDi player can read files from a mammoth UNIX workstation, a Macintosh, a PC or whatever.





HOW IT WORKS

We'll keep this simple. First you log-on. Most Internet service providers (CD-Online uses a company called Pipex) have a network of access points called Points Of Presence. Your modem dials up the number of your nearest POP (usually a local phone call away) and after transmitting your password, you're connected to the system. This means you usually only have to pay local call rates while you're online, whether you're connected to a computer in London or Australia. From there, you are connected internally (i.e. at no extra charge — lovely isn't it?) to the provider's main computer which is their gateway to the Net. You have now made yourself part of the active online network. Congratulations.

THE WORLD WIDE WEB

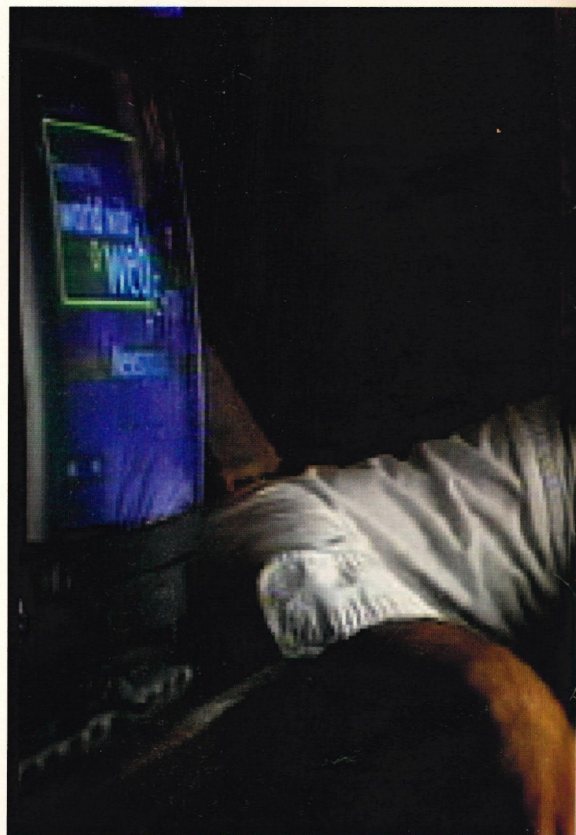
Probably the most popular part of the Net is the World Wide Web. Web Pages run the whole gamut; from being the Net presence of huge companies like Microsoft or Time Warner who use the Web to advertise their new products, to simply being a couple of pages knocked up by a student about his favourite TV programme.

With their mix of text and graph-

ics, they are in fact very similar to the pages of a magazine but with one important difference: hyperlinks. When you read a Web page, you'll come across certain phrases written in a different colour to the normal text (usually blue for some reason). These relate to other, relevant pages either held on the same computer or (and this is the damnably clever bit) on another one in a completely different part of the world. All you have to do is click on the hyperlinks and you're automatically transferred to the other page. You can start off reading something that's held on a computer in New York and end up reading something else on the subject over in Australia.

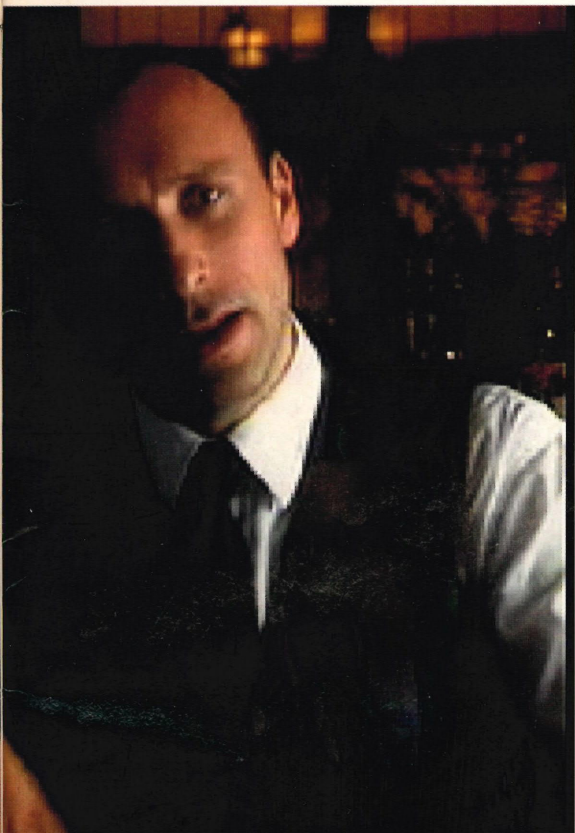
Often you will find yourself heading off on a tangent. An episode list from Babylon 5 can lead you to a discussion on xenobiology, which can in turn lead you to pictures taken from the Hubble telescope. This, flitting from one subject to another, is true Web "surfing" and the Net jargon term for the meandering path you take round the Web is a clickstream.

Every page you land on has an address (a URL — Uniform Resource Locator — in Netspeak) such as <http://www.cd-online.co.uk>. It might seem like a confusing mess



of words and punctuation but it does all make sense, honestly: http stands for HyperText Transfer Protocol, the format for exchanging Web pages; www indicates that it's part of the World Wide Web; cd-online is the server's name; co shows that it is a company; and uk means that the site is located in the United Kingdom.

With CDi, URLs can be typed in manually via the virtual keyboard after clicking the "Go to" button and once you're at a Web page you really like, you can store its address using the "Add to sites" function. This makes it far quicker to find it again (well, takes you straight there in fact) and up to 80 sites can be stored in this way. If you find using the virtual keyboard cumbersome,



fear not: a proper keyboard will be available early next year.

There are a couple of other snags with the CD-Online system: you can't physically download documents to the CDi player and there's no printer available with the system if you want to keep information on paper. And while we're moaning, a warning; using the four preferences files available with the software is going to swamp your machine's memory. Start waving goodbye to your high scores and saved game files now.

These are problems specific to CD-Online, but there's one problem common to all Net users; finding anything specific. The amount of information contained on Web pages is truly staggering but there's

nothing to tell you exactly where it all is. To get round this problem, there are various search engines available where you type in key words on a subject you want to find out about. The engines then search their databases and provide you with a list of hyperlinks to sites where those words are featured. It's not foolproof, but on a scale of one to ten for usefulness, search engines score a definite nine.

NEWSGROUPS

Usenet, the collection of 10,000 plus discussion groups, is the beating, squabbling, informative heart of the Internet. Everyone with access to Usenet can post messages to these groups: either requests for information, observations on the topic or arguments about what's already been posted. Essentially, it's the world's biggest bulletin board with over 100,000 messages being posted every day.

The groups are structured hierarchically, so that the Formula 1 newsgroup (very fractious and argumentative), for instance, is called "rec.autos.sport.f1". If you have an interest in anything, chances are there's a newsgroup about it, ranging from people who find Captain Jean-Luc Picard from "Star Trek" irre-

sistibly attractive ("alt.sexy.bald-captains") to those writing computer programmes in C ("comp.lang.c"). Need a vegan recipe or advice on buying a secondhand Mondeo in a hurry? Find the group, post the query and the answer will be yours.

It sounds like heaven, but it can be hell. When people say that all human life is on the Net, that means the loonies as well and it's on Usenet that they lurk. Flames (insulting e-mails) fly through the world's computers with incredible regularity and there's nothing worse than having your mail server being clogged with the things. To avoid this, we have...

NETIQUETTE

There's a lot of rubbish written about netiquette, but it boils down to this: have a good lurk around a newsgroup and get the feel of it before posting anything. Most groups post lists of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) regularly, and by reading them you won't ask something that's been asked about a hundred times before.

Lots of people also use "smiley" symbols like this :-) if they're making a joke, as irony doesn't always travel well across borders and can lead to flame wars and general misunderstandings. It's a good idea to use

NOW YOU CAN SURF THE NET ON CD-i AT COMET

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You don't need a PC to surf the Internet. All you need is a TV, CD-i Player, and this Starter Pack for just £89.99[▲]. Then you can browse the Worldwide Web, explore news groups, send and receive E-Mail, and much, much more.

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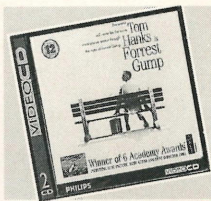
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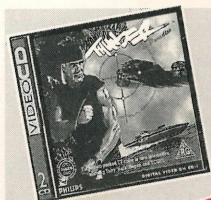


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THE COMET PRICE. The stores in South Wales do not show savings in-store. All items subject to availability. *Interest Free Credit. 20% deposit then 10 equal monthly payments. 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £400. Deposit 20% = £80. Amount of payments = 10 months @ £32. i.e. Total amount payable = Cash price. Interest Free Credit or Buy Now Pay Later promotions require you produce 2 methods of identification on application. Credit is subject to status and cannot be guaranteed. Comet is a licensed credit broker for this service. Comet Group Plc, George Street, Hull. Ask for a written credit quotation at your local store. ▲Voucher offer ends close of business 24.12.95. Excludes introductory offer. You must subscribe to CD on-line to access the Internet. Voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or voucher. Note to stores: Voucher offer process as Reason Code A9. ▲▲Normally charged at £20 set-up fee plus £12 per month. Prices correct at time of going to press.

10 COOL SITES TO GET YOU STARTED

Here are some of our favourite sites which you might like to try:

Lycos Web Crawler

<http://lycos.cs.cmu.edu>

The best and biggest of the Internet search engines.

The Electronic Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/et/html>

Excellent online version of the broadsheet and one of the UK's busiest websites.

HotWired

<http://www.wired.com/>

Internet edition of seminal and vastly influential cyberculture magazine.

Useless Web Pages

<http://www.primus.com/stuff/paulp/useless.html>

Links to complete rubbish all over the world. Often hysterically funny.

State51

<http://www.state51.co.uk/state51/>
Hypercool UK site. Just too complicated to explain. Go there.

NASA's Cool Site of the Week

<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/nasa/cool.html>

Gateway to one of the largest and most informative Websites around.

The Dominion

<http://www.scifi.com/>

Online presence of cable network, The Science Fiction Channel. Well designed, well presented, vastly informative. Nanoo nanoo.

Planet Science

<http://www.newscientist.com/ps/home.html>

Another excellent online version of a magazine. Brilliantly organised and always fascinating.

Internet Movie Database

<http://www.msstate.edu/Movies/>
Exactly what it says. Indispensable for film buffs.

Fortean Times Online

http://alpha.mic.dundee.ac.uk/ft/ft_stuff.html

Journal of weirdness and strange phenomena.

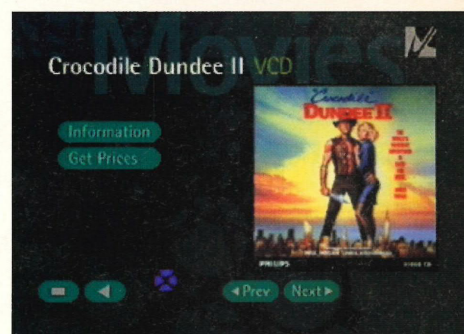
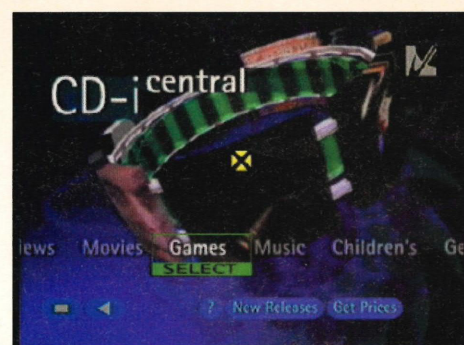
them, especially when you're starting out and learning the ropes. Acronyms are also in regular use, so if you stumble across things like BTW and IMHO they mean By The Way and In My Humble Opinion respectively.

E-MAIL

Popular though the WWW is, e-mail is probably the most widely used part of the Net. It's fast and it's cheap and though it might never take the place of a written letter (e-mails tend to be short and pithy in nature) it is incredibly useful. The regular postal service gets referred to by e-mail users in a rather derogatory fashion as "snail mail".

As with usual mail, an address such as "info@cd-online.co.uk" is needed. Once you have written a message on screen, you log-on to your mail server and any mail held on their computer for you is downloaded while the message you've just written is uploaded. From there it will get squirted off across the different computers on the Net to its destination, ready to be accessed as soon as the recipient logs-on to their computer.

CD-Online is a bit different in that your incoming mail is held on a main computer at CD-Online's HQ and when you read it you're reading data directly from their files. As a result, the browser software can only keep track of 10 messages at a time, so things have to be deleted after



they've been read. But it is a very effective way of sending messages around the world — think of it as a sort of electronic messaging system.

CENSORSHIP

Finally, a word about the sort of stuff you can find out in cyberspace. The Internet is completely uncensored and unregulated and occasionally you can come across some very disturbing material. Net users want to keep it that way, arguing that you don't have to look at it if you don't want to. However, parents might want to make certain that they use the manual password option and keep an eye on what data their offspring are accessing.

GETTING STARTED: HOW DO I GET ON LINE?

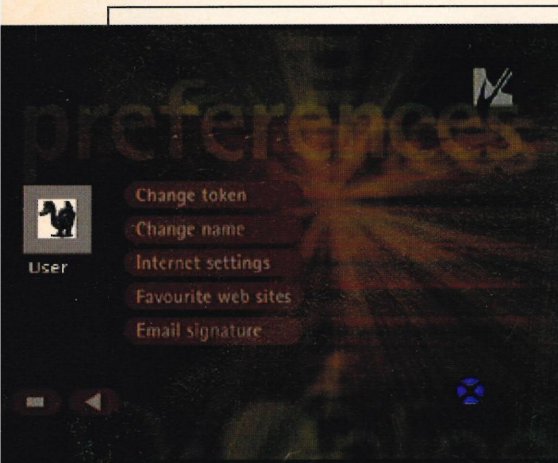
1) Buy the Internet starter kit from CD-Online (£99.99), and sign up for their monthly subscription (there is a start-up fee of £20, then £11.99/month or a special offer of £48 for the first six months). Call CD-Online on 0171 436 8677 for further details.

2) Take the modem, cables and CDi disc out of the box. Plug the modem into the RS232 socket at the back of the CDi player using the lead provided, and then connect the modem to your phone socket using the splitter. Connect the transformer to the modem and plug into the mains electricity supply.

3) Switch on the modem, insert the CD-Online disc into the CDi player and press play.

4) When the main menu screen appears, click on the Setup icon. Key in your subscriber id, password, preferred dial-up number and e-mail address as supplied by CD-Online. Your password can be set to automatic or manual.

Manual should be used if you wish to prevent anyone using the system without your supervision. You are now ready to join the information superhighway, so get surfing and enjoy yourself!



PREFERENCES:

You can customise the disc to suit your own preferences. Selects "Prefs" on the main screen menu, and then "Edit". You will see a screen offering the following options:

- Change Token
- Change Name
- Internet Settings
- Favourite Sites
- E-mail Signatures

Selecting Change Token allows you to select a new symbol to represent your particular set of preferences. Each member of the family can choose their own token. Just click on the symbol of your choice and then on the OK button.

To give your token a name, select Change Name. On the keyboard screen, delete the word "User" by clicking on "Clear" and then type your name.

Clicking on Internet Settings allows you to select various options such as switching the background music on or off. To select or deselect an option click on the small box next to it.

Favourite Sites allows you to edit or delete any of the web sites you have created while browsing the World Wide Web. Up to 20 sites can be stored in the CDi player's memory for each set of preferences.

E-mail Signature allows you to compose a few lines which will appear at the end of each e-mail you send.

If you have problems with any of the above, click on the ? icon.

There's a whole host of goodies on the disc we are giving away with this issue. Here are some of the highlights



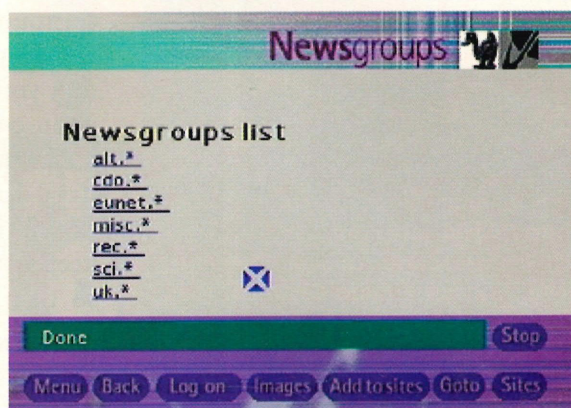
WHAT IS ON THE CD-ONLINE DISC?

NEWSGROUPS:

This option allows you to access Usenet, a large collection of discussion groups involving millions of people all over the world. Each group is centred around a particular topic and individual contributions are referred to as articles or postings. On the Newsgroups screen, you will see the following letters:

- alt. (alternative newsgroups, many topics)
- eunet. (European topics)
- isc. (miscellaneous)
- rec. (recreation, hobbies, the arts)
- sci. (science and technology)
- uk. (topics related to the UK)

Click on whichever category you want. You will then see something like "rec.autos.antique". You can browse the hierarchy of topics offline, but to view the articles themselves you must be online. When you click on a news-



group, you will see a summary screen listing the sender, topic and date of the ten most recent articles or messages. To post your own message to a Newsgroup, simply select "Post" and compose your message. It will then be added to the current newsgroup.

NB: Please remember that newsgroups are not edited or censored. Some discussion areas or individual messages may be offensive. We strongly recommend that parents supervise access by children.



CDI CENTRAL:

A comprehensive list of 250 CDi titles currently available. As well as background information on each one, there are around 50 video demo clips and you can get the latest prices and release dates when you log-on to the CD-Online service.

DAVE GOES SURFING:

An introductory video introducing Dave the barman who reckons he knows a thing or two about surfing in cyberspace. See what you think!



NET BROWSER:

Your gateway to the information superhighway. This is the bit where you can access the Internet, send and receive e-mail and join an infinite variety of news-groups. To log-on, you must first register as a subscriber to CD-Online. Call 0171 436 8677 for details.

OFFERS AND COMPETITIONS:

Regularly updated competitions slot. There will be lots of goodies to be won, so every time you log-on, check out the site and find out what you have to do.

WEB BROWSER:

Once you have logged on (see panel on page 13), the browser will take you directly to the CD-Online home-page. This is your starting point for exploring other Web sites. Scroll up or down by moving the cursor to the top or bottom of the page. At the bottom of the screen is a control bar with the following functions (if you wish to remove the control bar, click on button two):

Go To. This enables you to type in Universal Resource Locators (URLs) which are the electronic addresses of other web sites. For example, CD-Online is <http://www.cd-online.co.uk>.

Images. Clicking this button down-



loads pictures embedded in the Web page you are reading to the CDi player, then decodes them so they can be displayed on screen. Please note that this can take a considerable time, so your phone bill can mount up!

Add To Sites. Allows you to store your favourite URLs in the CDi player's memory for quick access. You can view the list of your favourite sites by clicking on Sites.

E-MAIL:

In many ways, one of the most useful parts of the Net. Select Net Browser from the main menu, then click on the e-mail box. To send and receive e-mail, you must of course log-on. But to save on your phone bill, you can compose your message off-line, then log-on to send it.

Compose. Click here to write your message.

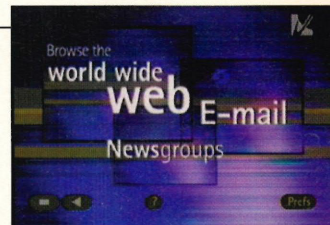
Get and Send. Sends any messages you have written and collects any new messages waiting for you.

In Box. Click here to see if there are any new messages waiting for you.

Out Box. Lists any messages you have composed and which are waiting to be sent.

Bin. Displays any messages you have ordered to be deleted when you next log-on.

If you wish to e-mail the Editor of CDi Magazine, the address is andy.clough@dial.pipex.com. For queries on CD-Online, the address is info@cd-online.co.uk.



BRINGING THE NET TO YOUR SET

ANDREW ORANGE is managing director of CD-Online, the company bringing the Internet to CDi. Andy Clough logs on to find out more

Q: Why did you decide to launch an Internet service using CDi?

A: Philips always knew the CDi player could take a modem and online connection, without any modification to the player. All we had to do was provide a modem and suitable software, so CDi made an excellent starting point. It also provides excellent Digital Video capability when played through a normal TV.

Q: How does your service differ from those already available?

A: We had the vision of bringing the Internet to the average person who perhaps cannot afford an expensive PC. The Internet is still quite difficult to access using a PC, as you need to load the right software, buy a modem and sign up with an access provider. Our system is truly "plug and play" — everything you need is supplied in one box. We want to make the Internet easier to access.

We are also the first company to offer the Internet on TV, which

makes it a more social experience for all the family. And I challenge anyone to provide a cheaper way of getting online!

Q: What will you put on the CDi disc to give added value to your service?

A: Basically, we can enhance our service by adding extra elements to the CDi disc. We can use the CD to deliver high quality graphics and video which do not have to be delivered down a modem. So, for example, you can read a review of a game such as Who Shot Johnny Rock? online and then watch a preview which streams off the CDi disc in full Digital Video.

The Internet is quite a slow environment and not, in my view, ideal for transmitting sound, video and pictures. We can put those elements on the disc, and then use the Internet for downloading text, so giving the best of both worlds.

Q: How did you develop your own browser for "reading" pages off the World Wide Web?

A: The programming was done by Lost Boys Interactive of Amsterdam and the design by Tui Consultation of London. They had to develop a browser which makes the pages easy to read on a TV set. Remember, you are not sitting close to a computer screen so the text needs to be much larger. The operating software, background music, graphics and video material are all stored on the CDi disc. We will add new features to the browser every time we release a new disc, as well as adding more graphic and audio material. There will also be a special feature, such as CDi Central, on every new disc.

Q: Many Web pages are now designed to be read using the Netscape 1.1 browser, and I've noticed your browser cannot read certain Netscape pages. What are you going to do about this?

A: It is true that some sites that use Netscape 1.1 are not readable, but

we hope to overcome this. Our browser is designed for people who are not necessarily used to operating PC software, so we have tried to keep it simple, but it will be improved constantly.

Q: How often will subscribers receive a new CD-Online disc?

A: Quarterly in 1996, and then monthly from 1997.

Q: The "virtual" keyboard, which uses the standard CDi remote for keying in text on screen, is extremely slow and frustrating. Have you any plans to offer a keyboard for the CDi player?

A: Yes. We hope to introduce a keyboard in January/February next year for less than £70. We need to find an appropriate keyboard that looks right, and which has the CDi functionality built-in. We are even looking at the possibility of an infra-red keyboard so you can use it anywhere around the living room. I am determined to introduce a keyboard as soon as possible.

Q: How would you describe the editorial style and content of your own CD-Online homepage on the Web (www.cd-online.co.uk)?

A: We want it to be fun and light-hearted. Our aim is to direct people to things we think are interesting on the Net. So we have created a leisure section for topics such as sport and film, a list of "cool" sites, an introduction to surfing the Net and a competition. There is even a site for Net virgins who are new to the whole thing. Our team is working on the homepage constantly so it is updated daily — each time you log-on, there could be something new.

Q: What other services will you offer your subscribers?

A: We want to offer discs additional to our own through a members' club. The first is likely to be a home shopping disc, which will have video clips of the products available. Users will then be able to log-on to get

prices and order goods using their credit cards. We are also looking at developing multi-player games through the Internet. So someone in London could play an opponent in New York — just for the price of a local phone call.

Q: Will you develop the CD-Online service for systems other than CDi?

A: We plan to expand into the multimedia PC market next year. We will see more and more PCs with built-in Digital Video capability introduced in 1996, and yes, we want to tap into that market. But I don't think the new generation of games systems, such as Sony PlayStation and Sega Saturn, are appropriate for our service.

Q: It has to be said that there is some rather "dubious" material on the Internet. Are you concerned about this and will you censor it?

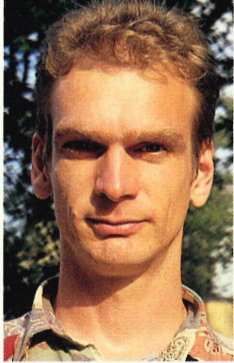
A: Of course we are concerned, but parents need to realise the Net is an uncensored environment. We can't possibly censor everything, so that is why we have built-in a manual password to prevent children logging on without supervision from an adult. There is also a clear warning on the Newsgroup menu screen that we are not responsible for the content of those newsgroups. If parents are really concerned, they can remove the CDi disc from the player.

Q: What do you consider to be the most exciting element of the Internet?

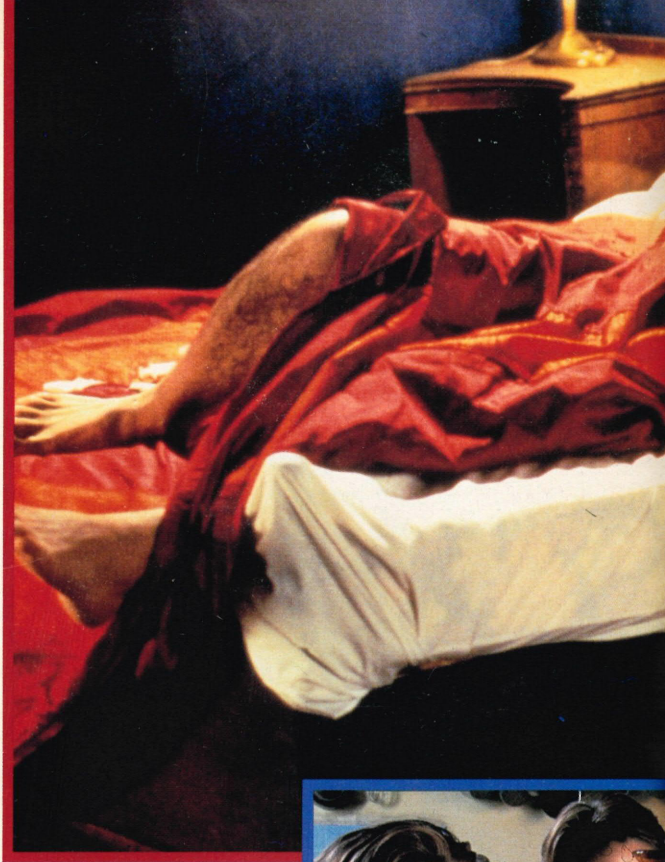
A: In many ways, e-mail, because it allows you to send messages to anyone, anywhere in the world, for the price of a local phone call. So instead of phoning someone long-distance, why not e-mail them?

Q: Are you planning to expand the CD-Online service beyond the UK?

A: Yes. We plan to introduce it in all main European countries, starting with The Netherlands, Belgium and then France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

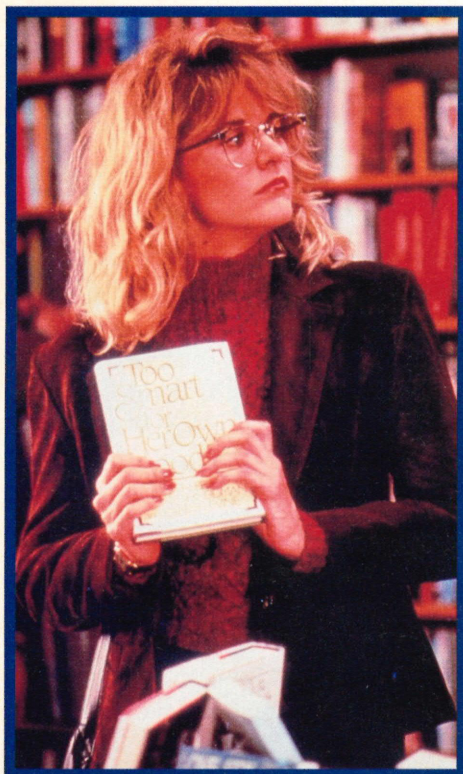


The BAFTA award-winning black comedy *Shallow Grave* is one of three classic PolyGram films out this month, says BEN SOUTHWELL



WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (15)

This is easily the best film I've had to review on Video CD in this issue. In fact, "When Harry Met Sally" is one of my candidates for the best film EVER. Yes, I like it that much. "When Harry Met Sally" is a romantic comedy that addresses the age old question: can men and women be friends without sex getting in the way? Billy Crystal was born to play Harry (who reckons the answer is definitely no) and Meg Ryan is perfect as Sally (whose response is a resounding yes). The film traces their story through years of friendship as we wonder if they will end up in bed, in trouble or in love.



The script, by Nora Ephron ("Sleepless in Seattle") received an Oscar nomination, and for my money it should have won. It's funny, touching and true to life. All the characters (including Carrie Fisher and Bruno Kirby as Harry and Sally's best friends) are wonderful creations, each with their own idiosyncracies and insecurities. So many scenes stick in your mind (if you've never seen it, the faked orgasm scene in a restaurant is a real treat in store) and each time you watch it becomes more familiar, like an old friend. It'll make you laugh, it'll touch you and it'll make you feel great. The real tragedy is that the MPEG encoding is terrible, with bleached colours and numerous scenes where it looks as if the lights have gone out, then suddenly someone remembered to turn them on again. Quality control definitely messed up here.

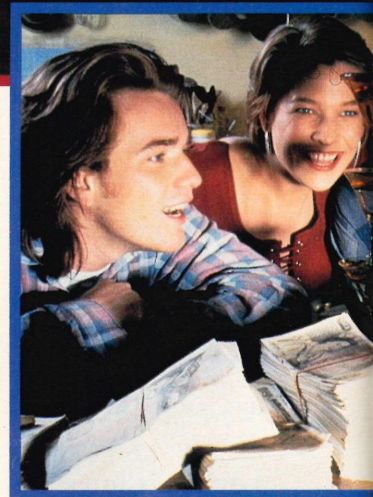
Rating: ☆☆☆ (due to poor picture quality)

Encoding: very poor

Cost: £14.99

Out: November 13

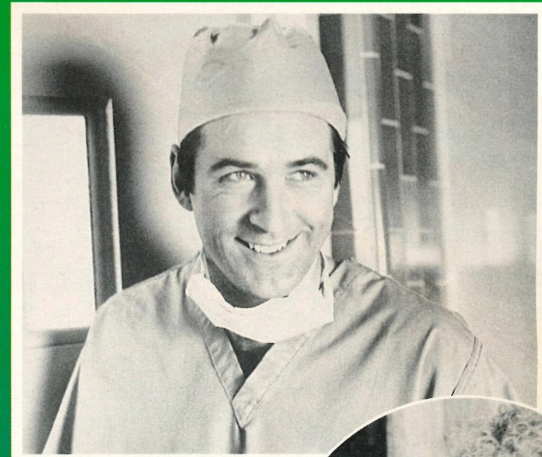
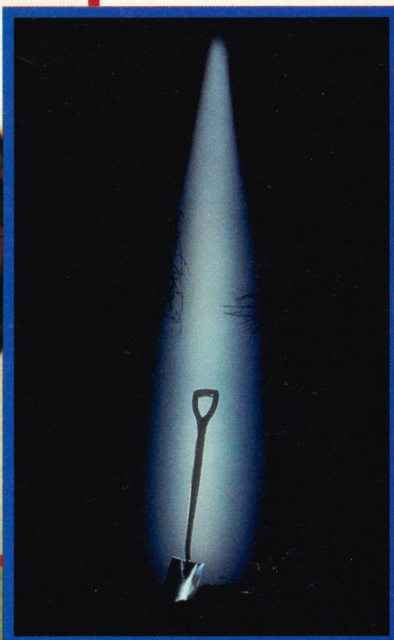
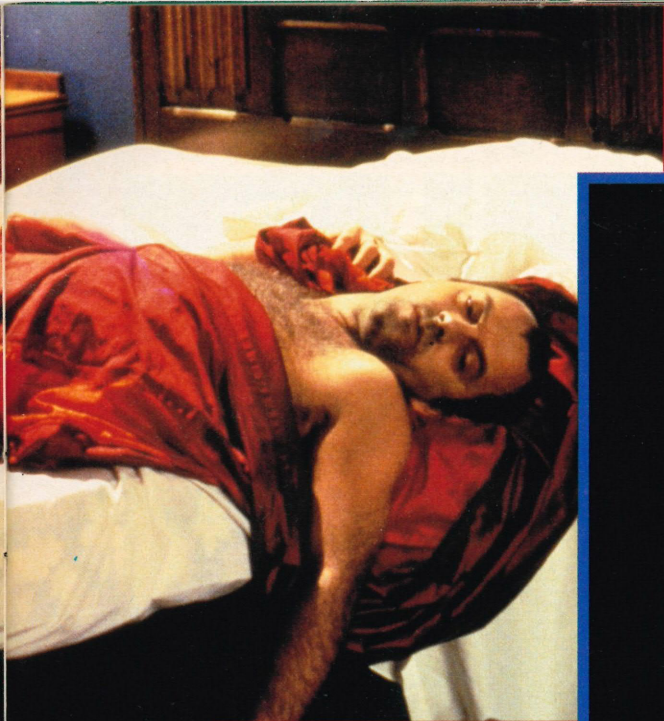
Contact PolyGram Video on 0181 910 5000



SHALLOW GRAVE (18)

At last, a low budget British film hyped to the heavens that actually lives up to its reputation. "Shallow Grave" is every bit as gripping, amusing and downright entertaining as the publicity surrounding its release claimed. It's also an excellent example of just what can be achieved on a limited budget if the idea is simple and original enough.

"Shallow Grave" starts as a thriller and a (very) black comedy but rapidly and effort-



MALICE (18)

A few years ago there was a sudden

rush of psychological thrillers varying in quality from the excellent ("Basic Instinct"), to the good ("Final Analysis"), to the downright unbelievable ("Shattered"). Fortunately, "Malice" fits in the good category. It's efficient and effective, and while it may not be the most original film ever made, it certainly has more than its fair share of twists and turns to keep you on your toes right up to the end.

It all seems straightforward enough at the start. The happy married life of Bill Pullman ("While You Were Sleeping") and Nicole Kidman ("Batman Forever") is disrupted by the arrival in town of an ambitious and rather attractive doctor (Alec Baldwin in terrific form). All is not, of course, what it seems.

With this sort of film, even when things have turned upside down and everyone has apparently switched sides at least twice, things are STILL not what they seem. In fact... you get the picture. What follows is deception after deception, betrayal and worse.

It's a well-made and well-acted film. Nicole Kidman really lets loose with a part that must have been great fun and Alec Baldwin's scene as the deluded doctor likening the work he does to God is a gem.

However, that said, I found "Malice" just a bit too, well malicious. It was too calculated for my tastes. But, if twists and turns and a plot that will keep you guessing to the end are your cup of tea, then "Malice" is definitely for you.

You'll probably end up going over the plot time and again to check you've spotted all the twists.

Rating: ★★☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Cost: £19.99
Out: November 13

Contact PolyGram Video

lessly becomes an excellent thriller about the pitfalls of greed. Three flat-mates interview for a fourth person to share their flat (the funniest scene of the film). No sooner have they found one — Keith Allen, who recently featured in Blur's "Country House" video — than he dies, leaving a suitcase full of money in his room. No-one else knows it's there, no-one knows it isn't theirs. The three flat-mates decide to keep the money and dispose of the body. What follows is very logical and, at times,

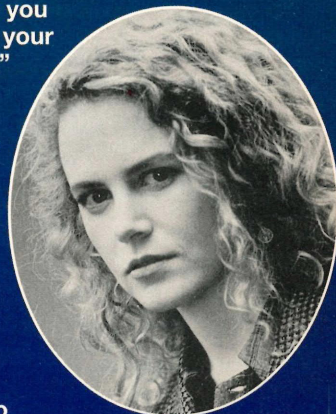
gruesome as the three of them deal with the consequences of their decision. Mistrust and paranoia set in as they are put through the mangle, and so will you.

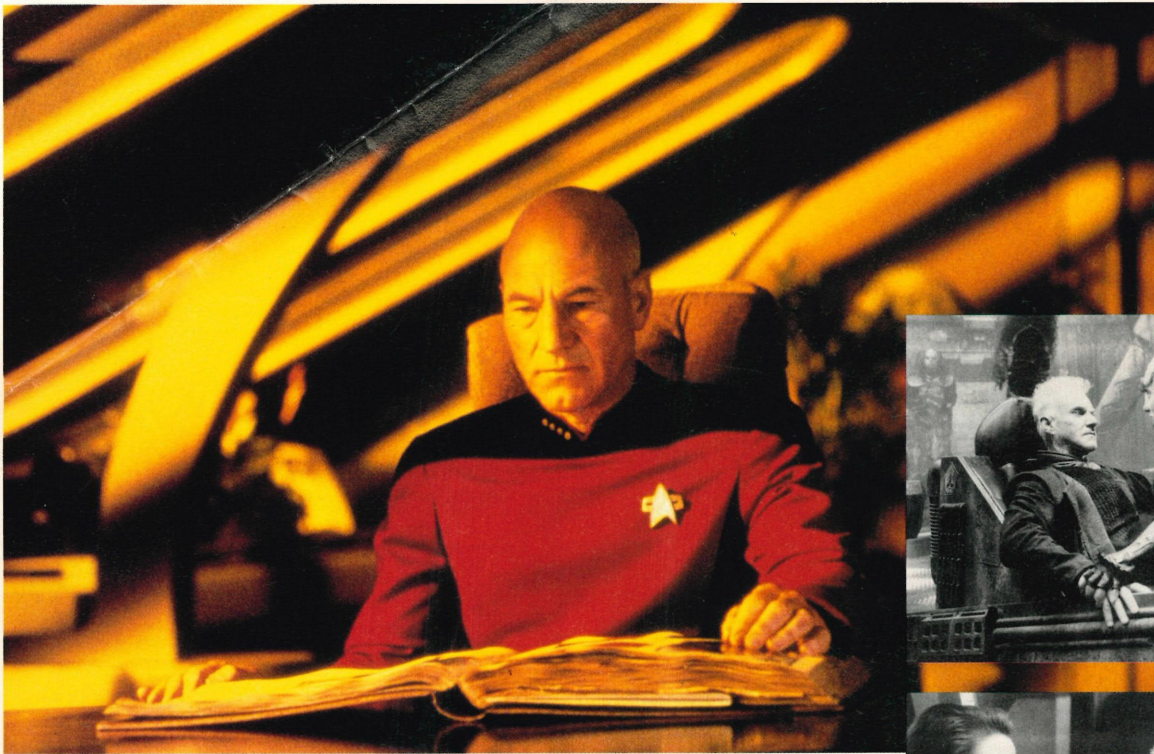
"Shallow Grave" is not for the faint hearted. It's not full of explicit gore as in a horror film, it's more like "Misery" in that it leaves most of the gruesome details to your imagination. But,

unlike "Misery", it also has a wicked sense of humour that makes it extremely funny in all the wrong ways. Flatsharing will never be the same again...

Rating: ★★★★★
Encoding: good
Cost: £19.99
Out: November 13

Contact PolyGram Video on 0181 910 5000 (Video CD out 3 months before VHS)





RATINGS:
 ☆=poor
 ☆☆=average
 ☆☆☆=good
 ☆☆☆☆=very good
 ☆☆☆☆☆=excellent



STAR TREK VII: GENERATIONS (PG)

Okay, I know it came in for some criticism during its cinema release, but there are more than enough reasons why "Generations" is still a "must see" for all Trekkers.

For a start, it's the first big screen outing for all the "Next Generation" regulars and it's great to see them in action. Then there's the added bonus of the last (or is it?) appearance of Captain Kirk (William Shatner enjoying himself immensely).

It has a great plot, with Malcolm McDowell in fine form as an utterly mad villain travelling through space and time and prepared to destroy planets in order to return to a sort of Nirvana or Heaven.

"Generations" also features a totally (and I mean TOTALLY) stunning crash scene that is worth the price of the disc on its own. To tell you any more would be to give the game away.

Admittedly, the film gets bogged down trying to give each member of the crew five minutes of "quality emotion", which not only holds up the plot, but is downright embarrassing at times. Patrick Stewart is a fine actor, but even he can't make some of Captain Picard's lines credible and Data's emotion chip is a BIG mistake.

All in all, it's a typically brave and ambitious "Star Trek" film that doesn't quite hit the bullseye, but offers enough to keep you entertained and promises great things for future "Next Generation" films.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆

Encoding: no disc

Cost: £19.99

Out: December 4



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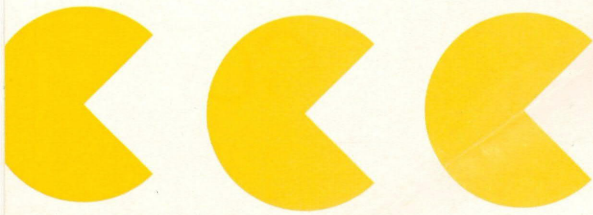
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agle-eyed gamers will recognise many of the gameplay elements in Pac Panic — the

title that marks the debut of Namco's classic ghost-munching Pac Man character on the CDi format.

For one thing, the whole game is a lock, stock and barrel conversion of a game called Pac Attack, which was released on the Super Nintendo a couple of years ago. But more obviously than that, Pac Panic isn't really a Pac Man game at all: it's basically good ol' Tetris with a few added bells and whistles.

Out go the mazes and the fruit-flavoured power-ups. Instead you have a static screen into which falls a never ending supply of building

blocks. Use your controller to move and rotate them so they fall into a solid line and disappear in a flurry of points. Let them pile up to the top of the screen and it's curtains, kid.

Into this tried and trusted format, the developers have added some elements from the original Pac Man games. So among the blocks you will find a number of ghosts which can clog up your patterns and accelerate your on-screen demise. These spooks can be sorted in two ways: the easiest is to unleash a gobbling Pac Man onto them (these parachute in, like the cavalry, when needed); a more rewarding — and more difficult — method is to crush the ghoulies into ectoplasm by assembling a complete line of blocks directly above them. SPLAT!

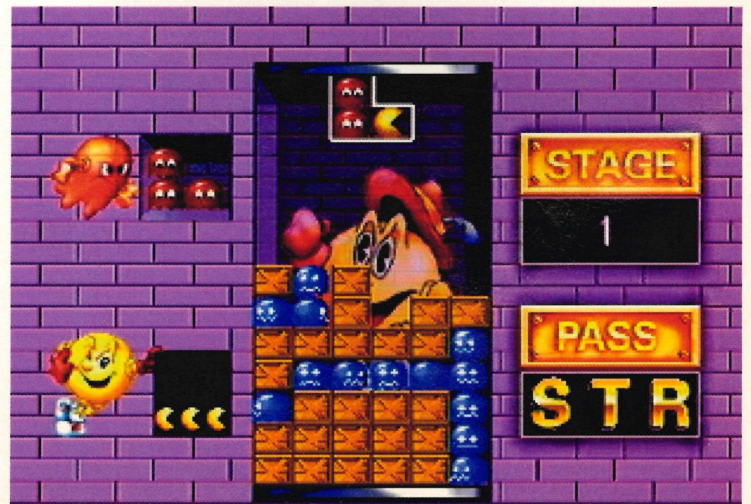
Does it work? Surprisingly enough it does, if you don't set your standards too high. As a Tetris clone, it retains much of the compulsive addictiveness of the original classic. In effect, it's Tetris for kids with Pac Man thrown in.

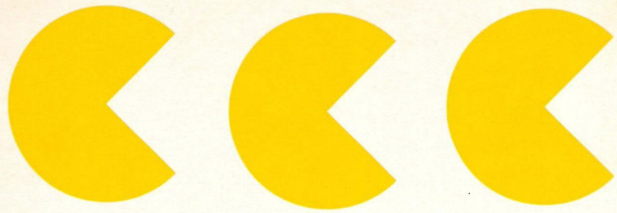
The ghosts and gobbling do add another strand of gameplay strategy to the mix, although this is nullified somewhat by the fact that there are fewer varieties of blocks available. The purists will huff, but this game

The ever-popular Pac Man munches his way on to CDi this month, says PATRICK BATEMAN



PAC





RATINGS

Graphics: 77%

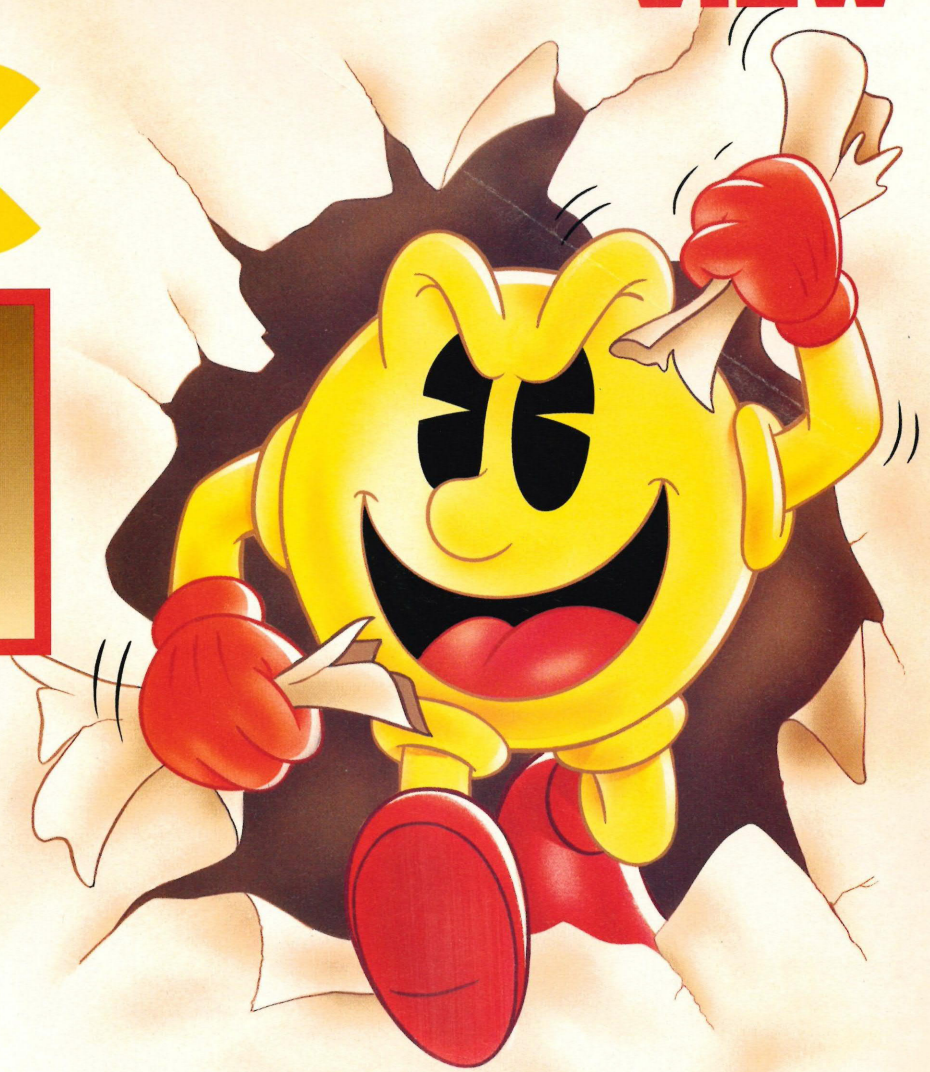
Sound: 80%

Interactivity: 80%

Overall: 80%

Cost: £24.99

Out: now



is really aimed at the younger end of the gamer's spectrum (under tens) and they will no doubt relish a spot of arcade tomfoolery to relieve the cerebral Tetris puzzle-solving.

Personally, though, I would rather have seen an arcade-perfect port of the original Pac Man game or Pac Mania, its 3D successor on the console platforms.

But Pac Panic should keep the little ones entertained and the grown-ups can always try the excellent CDi version of Tetris that was released a couple of years ago.

Produced by Namco

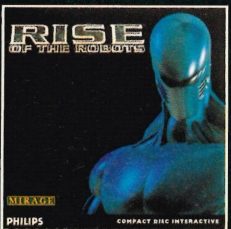
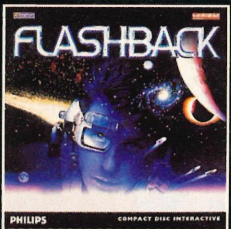
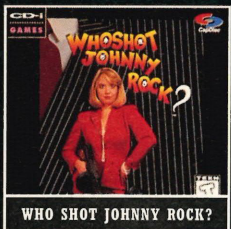
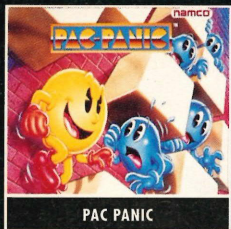
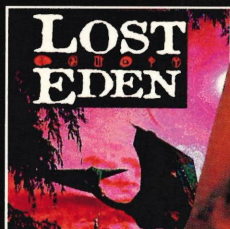
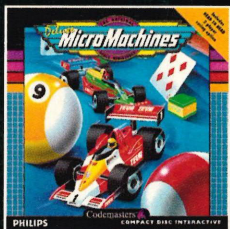
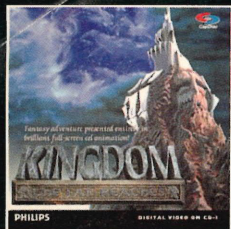


PANIC



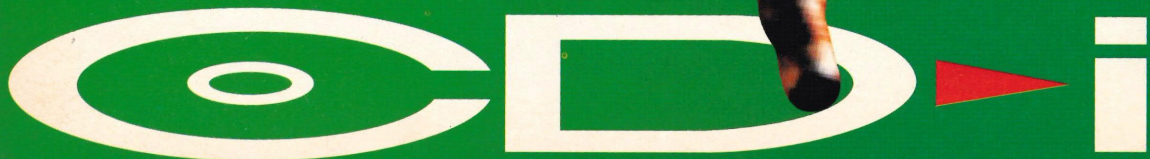
Wanna play

CD-i



"Red" from Who Shot Johnny Rock?TM
by American Laser Games.

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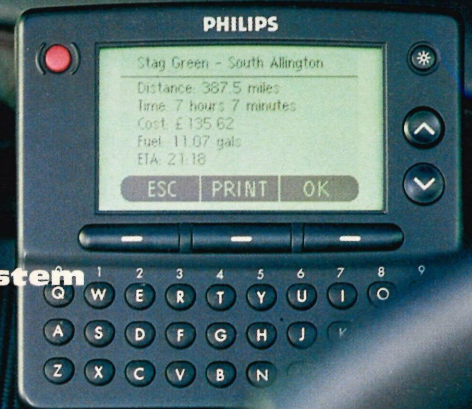
PHILIPS

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD COMPETITION

*The deadline for this festive CDi crossword competition is not until Monday, 8th January 1996, so take your time! If you need help in answering the questions, we have given you a clue by stating the 1995 issue of CDi Magazine where the answers can be found! Just complete the crossword, fill in the form and send it into us. **Good Luck!***

**1st
PRIZE**

**Philips Routefinder
in-car navigation system**



**2nd
PRIZE**

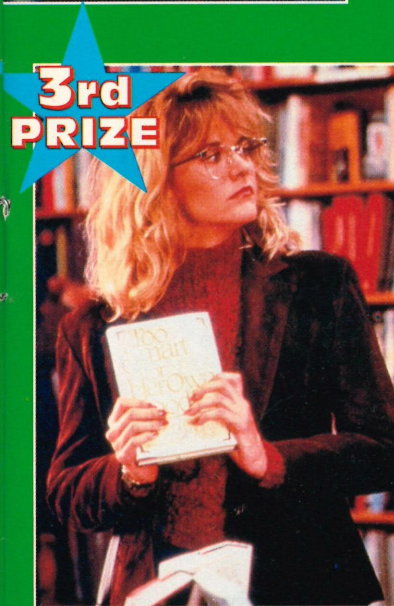
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Thumbelina gift set



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COMBINED TV
& VIDEO
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INCLUDING
'SHALLOW
GRAVE'
10 RUNNERS
UP PRIZES:
THUMBELINA
MOVIE CAST
GIFT SET



PolyGram's
collection of
13 Video CD
releases



ACROSS

4. The sequel to 'Abba Gold'. (December 4,4,4)
 5. This phrase describes the game 'Who Shot Johnny Rock?' (July 5,2,2)
 7. See 24 across.
 9. What is a CDi rating of 5 stars? (9)
 11. See 35 down.
 12. Peter Gabriel's interactive album. (February;6)
 14. And 21 across. This rock legend has a 'Private Collection'. (October 5,7)
 15. Micro Machines was the free _____ on the October issue. (October 4)
 17. The sport featured on the cover of the April issue. (April 8,8)
 19. This children's T.V. programme stars Rod, Jane and Freddy and also appears in the sky along with sun and rain. (February 7)
 21. See 14 across.
 24. And 7 across. This actress narrates 'The Crayon Factory'. (October 5,7)
 25. He wrote the music for 'Silicon Soldiers'. (October 5,3)
 27. The instrument played by Nigel Kennedy. (August 6)
 28. This 'Smooth Operator' was on the cover of February. (February 4)
 29. And 30 down. Leslie Nielsen is trying to do this with bad golf. (June 4,2,6)
 31. And 34 down. He is 'The New Statesman'. (June 3,6)
 32. This piece of furniture has become synonymous with 'The Cranberries'. (October 4)
 33. 'Thunder in Paradise' stars: a) Hulk Hogan b) Chris Lemmon c) Both (February 4)
 36. This designer produced the costumes for 'The Untouchables'. (February 6)
 37. 'The Most Exciting Woman In The World'. (June 6,4)
 38. Sir Anthony Hopkins met these 'In The Wild'. (October 4)
 39. Michael Bond was the creator of this loveable bear. (June 10)

DOWN

1. Debra Winger can often be found "In The Wild" with these. (December 6)
 2. And 16 down. The author of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. (December 5,4)
 3. 2 Unlimited come from this European country. (April 7)
 6. Andy Stout's overall rating of 'Flashback' was a) Brilliant b) Average c) Poor (February 9)
 8. A psychological thriller now out on CDi. (December 6)
 10. He wrote 'Thumbelina'. (April 3,9,8)
 13. Robert De Niro won an Oscar for his role in this film. (February 6,4)
 14. This Paris based company developed 'Lost Eden'. (October 4,11)
 16. See 2 down.
 18. See 22 down.
 20. This movie was No. 1 in the April Top Ten Chart. (April 6,5,1)
 22. And 18 down. Who was the 'Genius Of Soul'? (February 3,7)
 23. On this Pink Floyd tour, P.U.L.S.E. was recorded. (August 8,4)
 26. This band are 'Infected'. (April 3,3)
 30. See 29 across.
 34. See 31 across.
 35. And 11 across. The actor who plays the inventor in 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. (April 4,3,4)

Send your answers to: CDi / Crossword Competition,
 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0JE.
 The closing date for entries is Monday, 8th January 1996.
 The winners will be announced in the next issue of CDi. The
 judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be
 entered into. Employees of Haymarket Publishing, Philips
 Media, LG Electronics, PolyGram and their families are not
 eligible to enter.

Name:

Address:

.....

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Postcode:

Telephone:

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further
 information from Haymarket Publishing, Philips Media or
 any company associated with them.

Yearbook 1995

ANDY CLOUGH casts his eye over some of the big news stories that broke this year and are now recorded on CDI



1995 has been a tumultuous year. The war in the former Yugoslavia rumbled on despite numerous attempted peace agreements, Britain celebrated VE and VJ day, the O J Simpson trial reached its dramatic conclusion and the country sweltered in the hottest summer on record.

It's easy to forget how much has happened in a relatively short period of time. But history is now being recorded on CDi, and what we have here is the first interactive news review with domestic and international news highlights from 1995.

The disc is divided into nine categories: business, people, crime, war and peace, sports, arts and culture, politics, disasters and a miscellaneous section.

Click on one of the nine windows on the main screen menu and a series of events relating to a particular category will be displayed. The left-hand side of the screen gives UK news, the rest is given over to international news.

In each section, you can scroll up or down to reveal more news topics.

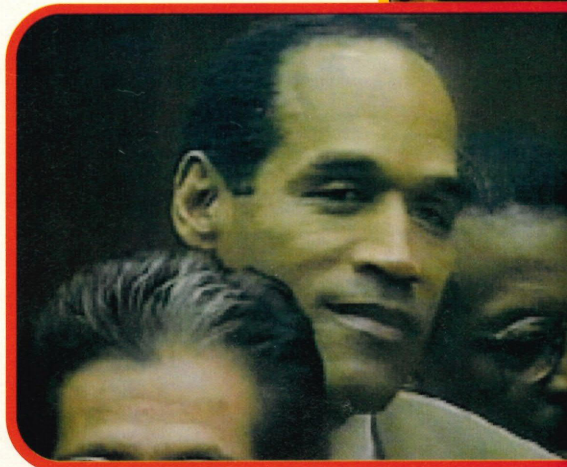
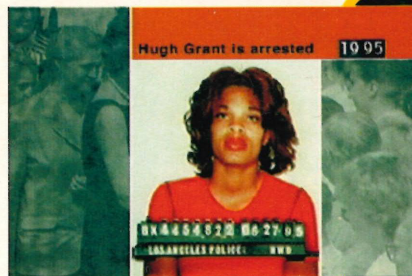
It's a very simple interface which allows you to dip in and out of the subject matter with ease. Most of the newsclips are quite short, but many include full Digital Video film footage. So if you want to see Tony Blair winning the vote to abolish Clause IV of the Labour Party constitution (well, someone might) it's

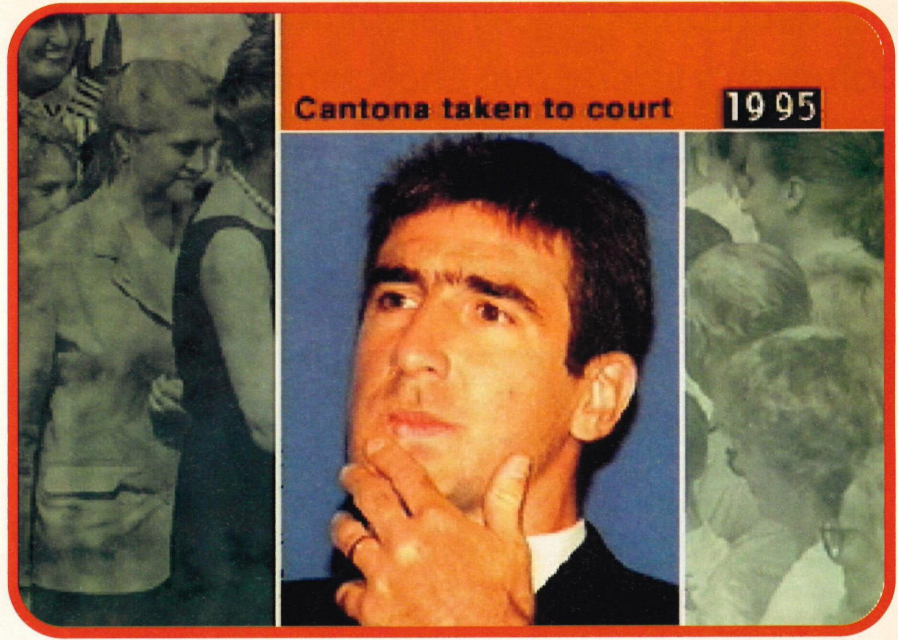
all recorded for posterity in glorious technicolour.

Alternatively, you might be more interested in the news that Robbie decided to leave Take That, in which case you should try out the "people" section. Robbie appears with startling spikey blond hairdo and some words to match.

Or maybe you'd rather watch a string of supermodels, including Naomi Campbell and Elle Macpherson, opening their first restaurant.

1995 All The News And Views is full of such little gems, and if that is not enough to keep you entertained, then there are two additional

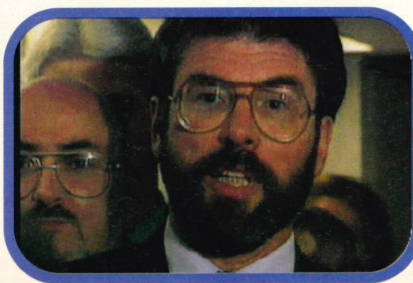
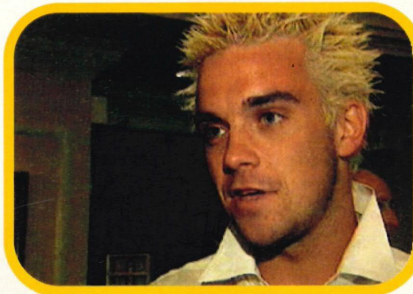




elements to the disc. You can test your general knowledge in the multiple choice quiz, or turn to the spinning globe and fly a plane to various "hotspots" around the world and find out what has been going on.

It's a simple but clever package, and ideal for newshounds and historians. But a disc like this will really come into its own in years to come, when we can all look back and say "oh yes, I remember that" and start to feel really old.

Rating:☆☆☆
 Cost: £19.99
 Out: now



Clockwise from top left: Hugh Grant and Divine Brown; Eric Cantona; Live Aid ten years on; the war in Bosnia; the Brent Spar; Gerry Adams; Robbie Williams; Take That; Ronnie Kray's funeral; a bevy of supermodels; Sting hands Elton John his lifetime achievement award; O J Simpson

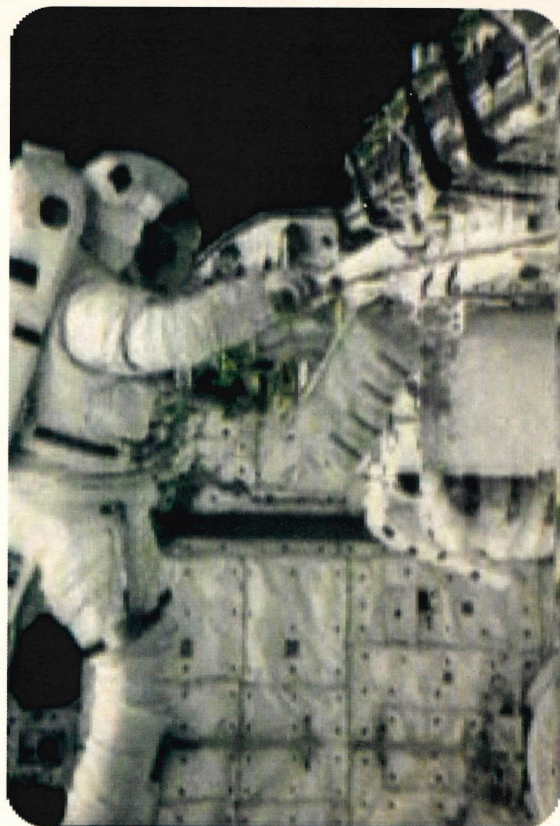
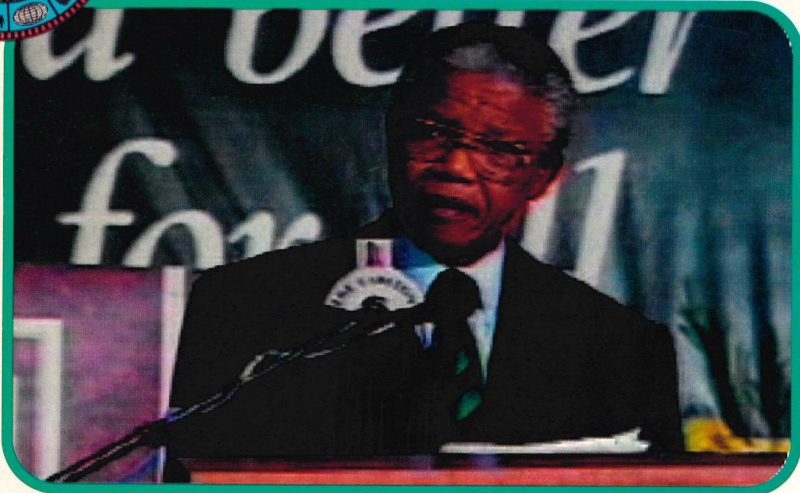


reference

The addition of full-screen Digital Video to Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia is a long overdue improvement, says **ANDY CLOUGH**



COMPTON'S INTERACTIVE ENCYCLOPEDIA



The original Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia was a thorough piece of work, and now it has been updated with the inclusion of full-screen Digital Video clips. Whether you want to see the Space Shuttle blast off on another mission, the assassination of President John F Kennedy in Dallas or Nelson Mandela's victory speech marking the end of apartheid, there is a bewildering amount of information you can choose from.

Just to give you an idea, there are 35,000 articles, 5,200 pictures, 55 slide shows, 25 full-screen video clips and 112,500 index references — all on one disc! Pretty impressive stuff. Finding your way around all this information would be tedious if the developer hadn't included a handy search engine. Just type in the name of what you are looking for (ie Space Shuttle) and bingo! you will be taken straight to any relevant articles.

Just to make things even more fun, there is a Time Machine which will take you back through history, an atlas, topic tree and dictionary. All in all, Compton's is easy-to-use and provides a rich seam of information.

My favourite part is the atlas, which allows you to zoom in on any part of the world and then find out more about that particular region, such as its history, ecology and economy. Clever. Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia is not cheap, but if you haven't bought the original, then it might be worth considering. The addition of the video clips is certainly an improvement and brings the whole thing to life. My only gripe is that scrolling through large amounts of text on a TV screen can be slow, tedious and sometimes difficult to read.

Produced by Compton's New Media

Rating: ☆☆☆

Cost: £149.99

Out: now

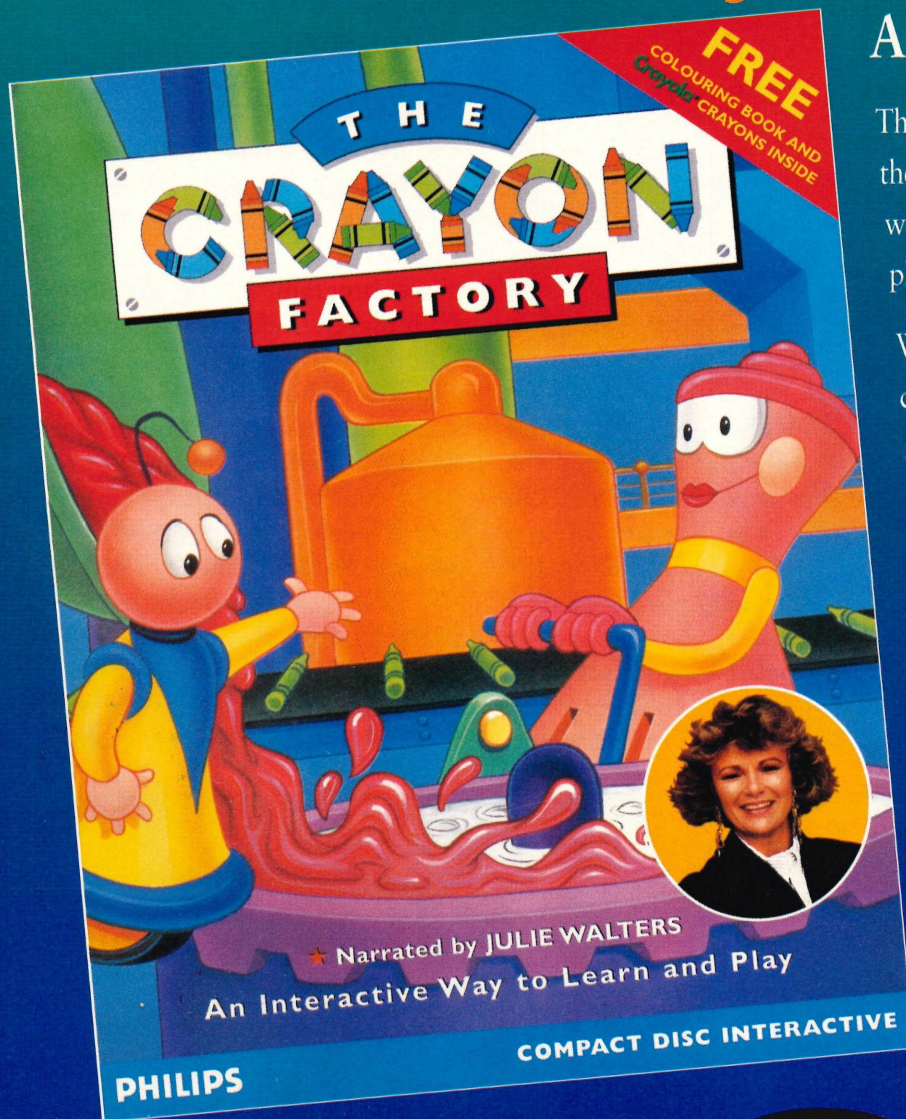
RATINGS:
☆=poor
☆☆=average
☆☆☆=good
☆☆☆☆=very good
☆☆☆☆☆=excellent



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NARRATED BY JULIE WALTERS



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And with **Julie Walters** as their guide throughout, you can guess there's never a dull moment.

If that's not enough to fill their time, there are 8 free Crayola® crayons and a stunning colouring book inside!

So think of their futures. Teach them new skills. Send them off to work at the Factory.

Learning has never been such fun!

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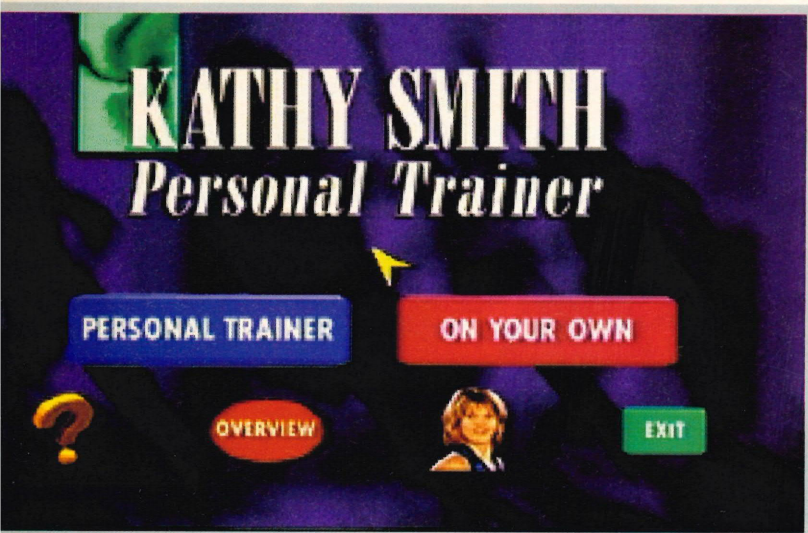
Ages 4-7

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KATHY SMITH: PERSONAL TRAINER

It's time to drag yourself off the sofa, put on your tracksuit or leotard and get into shape. **ANDY CLOUGH** tries out the first CDi workout video



Let's get motivated! If you find Mr Motivator a bit too much to cope with on GMTV first thing in the morning, you can now create your own personal workout program using this latest offering on Compact Disc Interactive.

Kathy Smith is hardly a household name over here, but apparently she is huge in the fitness world in the USA.

She has teamed up with Philips Media to bring the interactive benefits of CDi to her video workout system. So now there is no excuse for being a CDi couch potato!

Want to lose weight? You got it. Tone those flabby muscles? No

problem. Improve your stamina? Easy. Reduce stress? Should be a doddle. All you need is a CDi player with Digital Video, a few basic exercise items and away you go.

The cunning thing about this disc is that you can customise each workout program to suit your own level of fitness and physique. When you start up the disc, you are offered the choice of "Personal Trainer" or "On Your Own". The former means Kathy will keep a beady eye on the proceedings and help you to create a workout schedule.

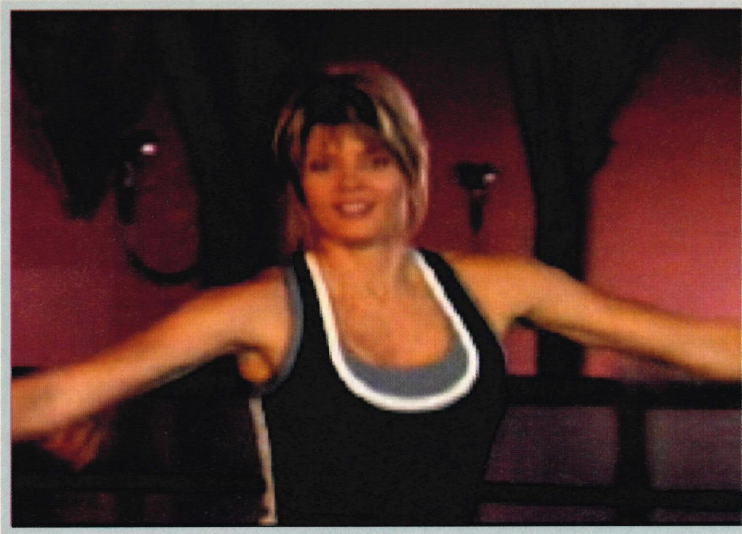
Options enable you to set your fitness goals, exercise levels, the number of workouts per week and

the style of exercises you want to do (Aerobox, Low Impact/Step Aerobics or Body Sculpting). By typing in your name, your personalised program will be stored in the CDi player's memory for future use.

During your training sessions, you can alter the program to make it easier, harder or more interesting by adding a variety of routines.

Of course, if you reckon you don't need Kathy's help then you can select "On Your Own". This allows you to design your own exercise program: choose the styles of exercise and the duration you want. Once you've done that, you can save it under one of five given names for



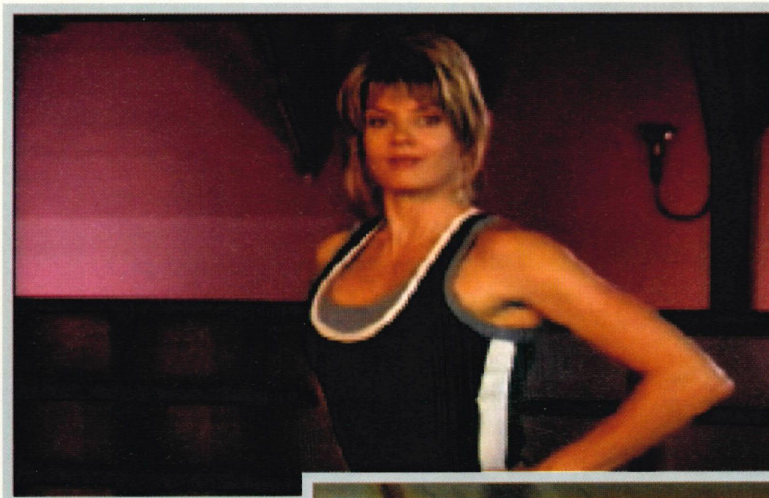


easy selection every time you start the CDi player.

The disc has several other clever functions. At any time during a workout, click on action button 1 and a control bar will appear on screen. This allows you to go back to your previous exercise, jump forward to the next one, pause the one you are on, adjust the sound or carry out an "exertion check" (this function is not available during the early stages of the Aerobox workout).

Kathy will even teach you how to determine if your heart rate is within your target range and how to gauge your exertion level.

All in all, Kathy Smith's Personal Trainer is an excellent way of burning off those Christmas calories and getting into shape for the New Year. The blend of CDi interactivity and Digital Video is ideal for this kind of disc. Similar VHS products simply cannot compete as they can't be tailored to the needs of the user. So



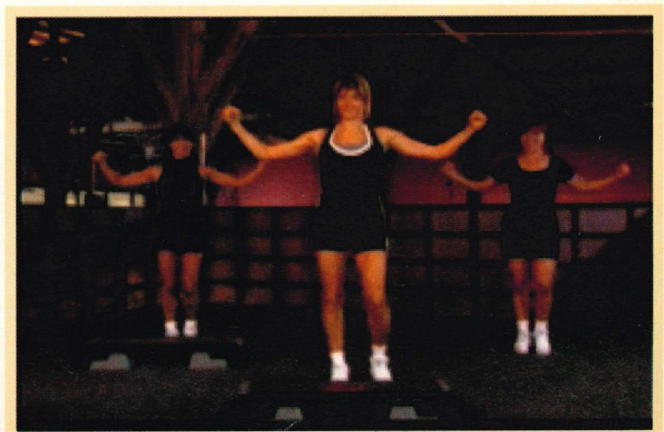
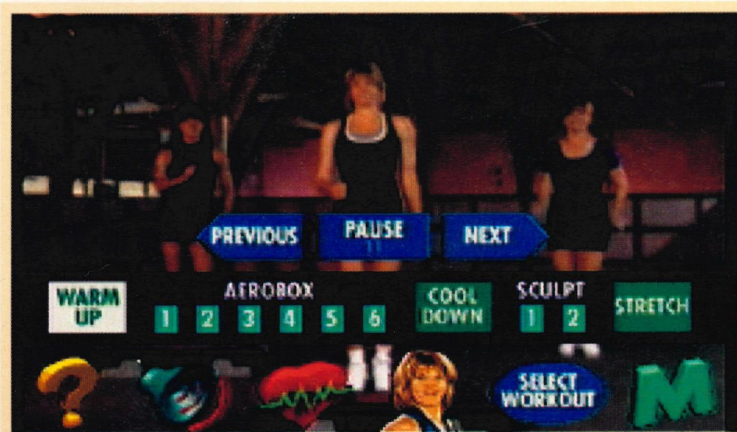
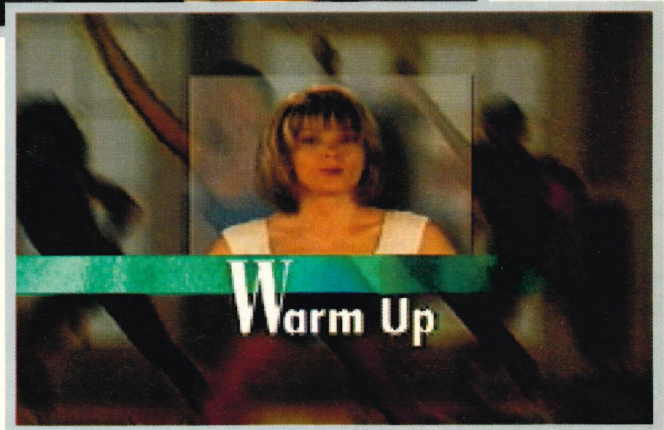
come on, get yourself motivated and start that exercise program NOW!

Produced by Philips Media

Rating: ★★★★★

Cost: £TBA

Out: January



Going from strength to strength, the quality of the natural history Video CDs far outstrips the movies on offer this winter

Eyewitness: Amphibian

There is something about the Eyewitness series that reminds me of Michael Caine. Each seems full of "did you know?" remarks that are, in fact, truly remarkable and also come thick and fast through a modest 35 minute running time.

Did you know, for example, that the skin of the golden dart, the most poisonous frog on earth, could kill 1,000 people, making the amphibian one of nature's most deadly weapons?

Did you also know that Croakers' College in California trains frogs to jump, awards graduation prizes and counts Ronald Reagan's frog Jellybean among its alumni? Not a lot of people know that.

Yes, this is a must-buy for anyone planning a Christmas stocking filler for Ken Livingstone MP, as it covers the natural history of his favourite pet newts, as well as frogs, toads and salamanders.

"Amphibian" represents engaging viewing for anyone whose age goes beyond single figures. Its fast-fire editing and excellent graphics ultimately work because they merely act as a second string to the real star of the show — which is the superb film footage of the subjects covered.

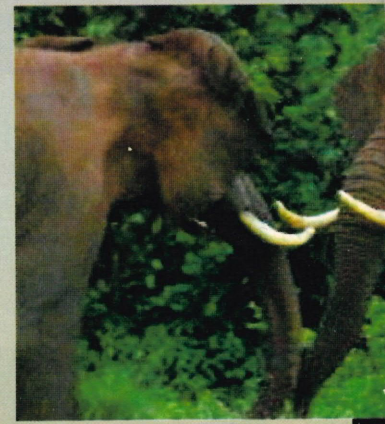
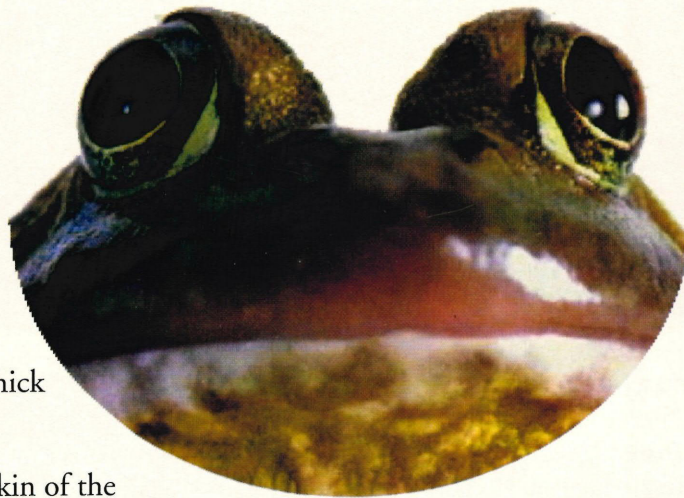
Once again, this edition of the Eyewitness series looks as though it has used its state-of-the-art editing and graphical techniques to make a silk purse out of what is clearly silk in the first place. If you have invested in Eyewitness releases before and liked them, then you won't feel as if you have ended up with a sow's ear with this one.

Despite its standard, and rather short 35 minute running time, this Eyewitness disc represents good value for money for anyone seeking to accumulate an exciting educational VCD library.

JOE FITZGERALD

Rating: ★★★★★
Encoding: excellent
Cost: £9.99
Available: now

Contact: CD Vision



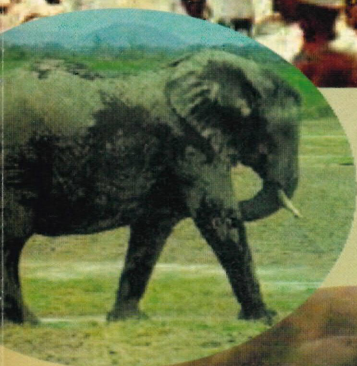
Eyewitness: Elephant

To set about explaining all there is to know about elephants in a half hour Video CD is a mammoth task, if you will excuse the pun.

Indeed, if you really have skin as thick as an elephant when it comes to making puns, you could say the producers of "Elephant" had a giant "tusk" to perform. But they have managed quite magnificently. We all know, of course, that there are two types of elephant — African and Asian — and that the animals are responsible for more human deaths in India each year than lions or any other nambie-pambie feline species. Some of us also know that it is not just big real-life elephants that are capable of downing a barrel of ale in one.

As you will have read in your newspaper, smaller scale figurines of the deified animal are capable of the even more miraculous task of downing tablespoonfuls of pasteurised, or even sterilised, milk when





situated in the right Hindu temple. There is nothing miraculous about this Video CD — just rock-solid subject matter, with good investment in library and originally shot footage and the (as normal) excellent production values of this Dorling Kindersley/BBC Worldwide Television co-production. Yep — having read

the book, you can now watch the Video CD if you have a bee in your bonnet about the world's largest land mammal. You won't feel short-changed or disappointed.

JOE FITZGERALD

Rating: ★★★★★
 Encoding: excellent
 Cost: £9.99
 Available: now

Contact: CD Vision

In the Wild: Pandas with Debra Winger

Debra Winger has always struck me as one of the more intelligent of Hollywood's actresses, and this impression is confirmed by this first class documentary. The latest release in the "In the Wild" series sticks to the basic formula: a "celebrity" is followed by a camera crew on an all-expenses paid quest to discover an endangered animal in its natural habitat. The inevitable climax to the programme involves the celeb and the poor animal indulging in a piece of spontaneous "bonding" as the narration whitters on about the importance of Nature to Man, and vice versa. What makes this a cut above the others in this series is Winger herself — the most unlucky of actresses — and the fact that she is accompanied by her seven year old son, Noah. The pair of them form a very tender and natural on-screen partnership that becomes all the more endearing as they encounter all sorts of threats to their expedition, from inedible Chinese food to belligerent government officials and inclement weather. No doubt much of the footage's narrative suspense was pre-packaged on location or touched up in the editing suite, but many spontaneous moments stand out. For instance, in a Sezechuan market place Winger fondles a root vegetable only to be told — to her obvious horror — that it is a dried "dog's organ". Or when her breakfast is interrupted by the arrival of Professor Pan, the wildlife expert who has defied the authorities to take this Hollywood star to the Pandas.



Unfortunately, the last five minutes or so — when Winger and son get to hug a baby Panda, and name him "Faith" — were a tad too sentimental for my jaded palate. But otherwise this is a well presented and entertaining documentary for all the family, and one that is packed with remarkable Panda facts. The encoding quality does the content proud, with crisp and clear visuals and a full blown Dolby Stereo soundtrack.

PATRICK BATEMAN

Rating: ★★★★★
 Encoding very good
 Price £14.99
 Available: now

Contact: CD Vision



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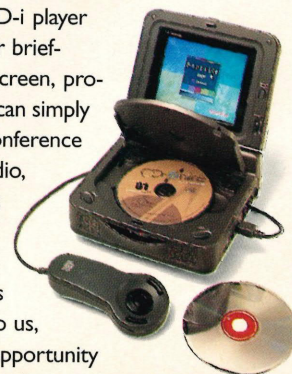
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Swordkill: Ghost Warrior (15)

The time is 1552. The place, feudal Japan. Samurai warrior Yoshi attempts to rescue his kidnapped wife from a rival clan but she dies, and he plunges — badly injured — into a freezing river.

Four hundred and fifty years later, his perfectly preserved body is discovered in the ice. He is flown to a cryogenics institute in Los Angeles and defrosted. Now everyone wants a piece of this superannuated Samurai and his priceless Bushido swords, from scientists to dope fiends to SWAT teams. So Yoshi carves his way through East LA and heads for the hills pursued by the demons of his memories and members of the LAPD.

Another cheap and cheerful low-budgeter from the Charles Band stable, "Swordkill" at least has the benefit of a half decent idea.

Sadly, everything else is strictly second rate: the acting is laughable, the fight choreography

unimaginative and the scriptwriting lame-brained. This is a crying shame because there was money spent on this film. It starts with impressive location footage amid the snow-covered mountain ranges of Japan, and you can't help wondering if it would be a better film if the makers had avoided the sci-fi angle and concentrated on making a period Samurai flick. At least they would have avoided all the unintentional bellylaughs that greet the sight of Yoshi walking through the backstreets of Hollywood clad in what appear to be M&S pyjamas and an oversize pair of carpet slippers.

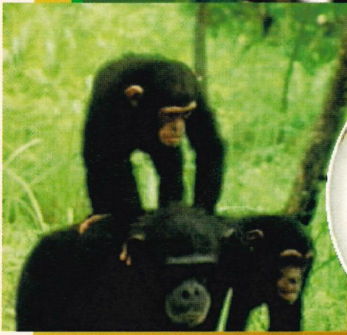
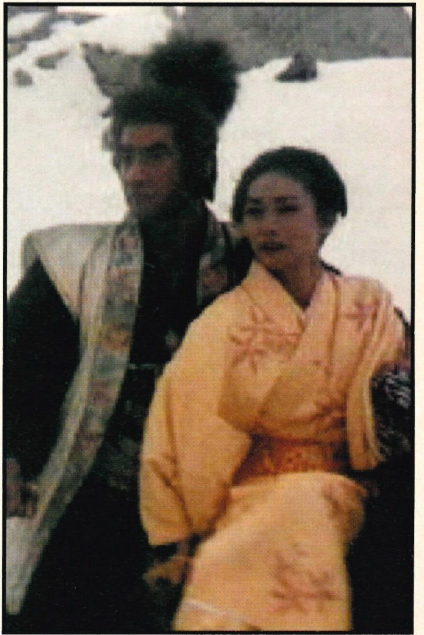
Things aren't much better on the Video CD transfer front. It looks as if the encoding was sourced from a terrible old master tape and knocked out in a hurry: the picture quality is dull and colourless while nearly every action sequence is blighted by on-screen artefacts. The soundtrack, inevitably, is in mono.

Conclusion: you're better off committing hara kiri than forking out good money for this tosh.

PATRICK BATEMAN

Rating: ☆
Encoding: poor
Cost: £14.99

Available: November 27 Contact CD Vision



Eyewitness: Jungle

For once in this Dorling Kindersley/BBC co-produced natural history series, the half hour format fails to do an adequate job.

As usual, the Video CD has all the benefits of the excellent production values, original footage and superb graphics that are a hallmark of the entire Eyewitness series. People who have seen previous discs in the series will not be disappointed on these counts.

But in choosing such a huge topic to explain, rather than sticking to Eyewitness's usual ambition of examining a single species or family of species, producer Bill Butt has bitten off more than he can chew. The end result with "Jungle" is that you can't see the wood for the trees.

Perhaps if it was done as a two-parter, or if the jungle topic was broken down into two or three Eyewitness subject areas, it might be easier to get to grips with the world's most abundant, and threatened, eco-system.

But over half an hour, too many unrelated facts come thick and fast to be absorbed properly. Insects, flowers, creepers, trees, birds, reptiles, mammals, predators and climate are all there — but covered at breakneck speed.

At least one advantage of viewing the documentary on the VCD format is the ability to stop-start and retrack over any frames or commentary that went by too quickly with ease.

This release may be useful in prompting an interest in finding out more about the way the jungle eco-system works, but 35 minutes is just not enough time to cover the subject in depth.

JOE FITZGERALD

Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: excellent
Cost: £9.99
Available: now

Contact: CD Vision



KNOCKOUTS

If you had enough bottle you could probably take the distributors of "Knockouts" to court under the Trade Descriptions Act. The cover image is of a vivacious blonde with more silicon than Intel and IBM combined. The blurb on the back is equally up front: "If you're looking for something near the knuckle!... leaves nothing to the imagination!... horny health club beauties... no-holds barred ..action gets hotter and hotter... woman against woman, body against body..."

The trouble is nobody's going to say to their local magistrate: "Yer honour, I bought this Video CD under the impression that it was a seriously smutty piece of soft porn. In fact, it is about as erotic as a plate of pie and mash."

Not only is this a sex film with no sex in it, it's also a

contender for the worst film this reviewer has ever seen. The plot, something about high school students setting up a women's wrestling competition to make ends meet (fnar fnar) is useless, but even that looks good alongside the "acting" of stars like Brad Zutaut and Sindy Rome, which is as good as their choice of screen names. Twist my arm and I'll concede the picture quality was watchable (although the soundtrack is in mono). But in this particular case you can't help feeling that watching a screen full of digital artefacts and white noise would have been more enjoyable. Suffice to say, it's not a Video CD you should rush out and add to your collection.

PATRICK BATEMAN

Rating: ☆
 Encoding: OK
 Cost: £14.99
 Available: now

Contact: CD Vision 0171 240 7764

Tiger Claws (15)

This is not one to worry the Oscar committee, methinks. "Tiger Claws" is (apparently) a story of violence, murder and corruption and a lethal style of Kung Fu called Tiger. In other words, a bunch of scenes of people kicking the living daylight out of each other loosely connected by a couple of scraps of plot.

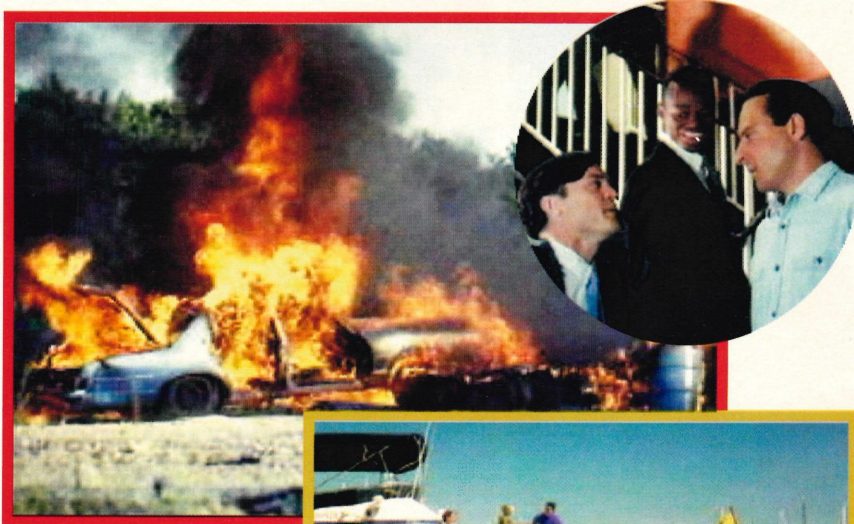
Starring Cynthia Rothrock and Bolo Yeung (who is the film's saving grace), "Tiger Claws" is one of those movies that comes ready-made to be dubbed into German and screened on satellite at one o'clock in the morning. How bad is it? Well let's just say that the martial arts members of the cast are also its strongest thespians.

The plot, such as it is, involves someone going round New York City killing martial arts experts with his or her bare hands. Rothrock plays a cop who concludes with stunning insight that the Death Dealer (as the killer is dubbed) is — wait for it — using martial arts techniques to bump people off. Rothrock and her high-kicking partner are assigned to the case.

It's unremittingly awful and therefore highly entertaining. It is ideal viewing for those who adore B-movies, Power Rangers and normally watch films about 11.30 on a Friday evening after sinking a few pints at the pub. But please don't take this stuff too seriously. It could damage your mental health!

ANDY STOUT

Rating: ☆☆
 Encoding: good
 Cost: £17.99
 Available: now Contact CD Vision on 0171 240 7764



RATINGS:

- ☆=poor
- ☆☆= average
- ☆☆☆= good
- ☆☆☆☆= very good
- ☆☆☆☆☆= excellent

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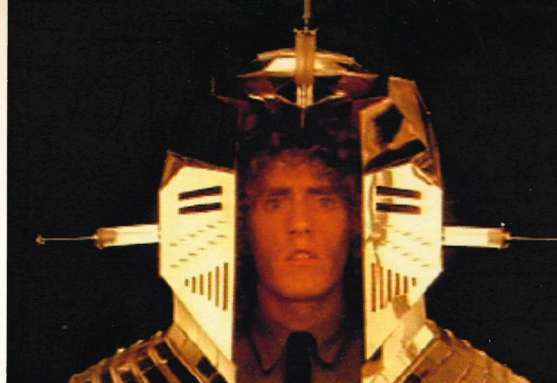
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Roger Daltrey in *Tommy*, a very young Mick Jagger and some classic early Abba videos — ANDY STOUT takes a trip back in time



Tommy: The Movie

Ken Russell's 1975 production of Pete Townshend and The Who's rock opera is justifiably infamous and watching it again you can see exactly why. It's one of those films that's entered the popular consciousness; one where it doesn't matter if you've ever actually seen it because parts of it — played as clips on TV — have lodged in your memory anyway. Put this disc in the player and it's akin to welcoming back an old friend.

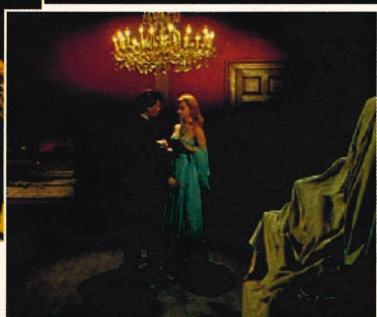
A friend that's going to terrorise the cat, vomit over your plants and try and seduce your other half that is. The thing is you knew he was going to do that, it's just that your memory plays tricks and you filter out the bad stuff, ditch the unpleasant recollections and welcome him with open arms. Such a film is *Tommy*. Parts of it are magnificent: Tina Turner's raunch through "Acid Queen" should really have relaunched her career a decade earlier than she eventually did; "Pinball Wizard", with Elton John tottering around the stage on stilts, is still one of the all-time classic pieces of rock footage; and the messianic, quasi-religious ending of Roger Daltrey legging it up a mountain to the sound of "Listening To You" is still an adrenaline rush. The rest...hmm.

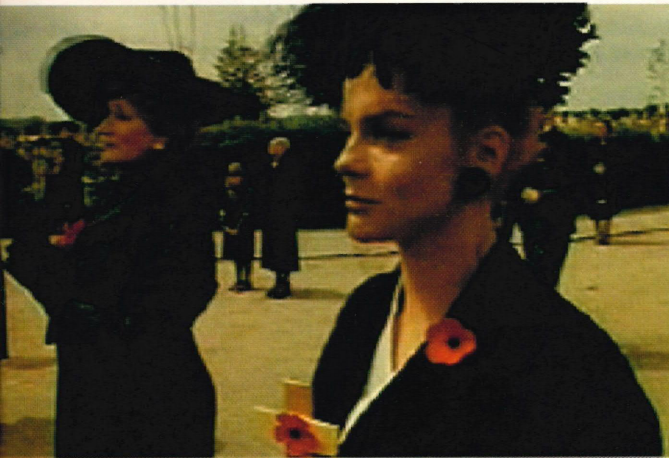
The problems are these. First, the music's uneven, venturing from the sublime to the truly awful. Second, Russell's directing —

Tommy: The Movie

Disc 1
 Overture From Tommy/Prologue 1945
 Captain Walker/It's A Boy
 Amazing Journey
 Fairground
 Christmas
 Eyesight To The Blind
 Acid Queen
 Do You Think It's Alright? 1
 Cousin Kevin
 Do You Think It's Alright? 2
 Fiddle About
 Do You Think It's Alright? 3
 Sparks
 Extra! Extra!

Disc 2
 Pinball Wizard
 Rex Beans
 Champagne
 Listening To You/See Me Feel Me
 There's A Doctor I've Found
 Tommy Can You Hear Me
 Go To The Mirror
 I'm Free
 Mother and Son
 Extra! Extra!
 Sally Simpson
 Hell's Angels
 I'm A Sensation
 Welcome
 Deceived
 Tommy's Holiday Camp
 Teaching Disabled
 We're Gonna Take It
 Listening To You/See Me Feel Me





though at times highly disturbing and effective — is ludicrously stylised and dated in the extreme. Third, the acting (apart from a nomination for the splendid Ann Margaret) was never going to trouble the Oscar Committee. And lastly, the plot is 50/50 convoluted mess and mystical stupidity. Then there's the sound quality. For heaven's sake play this disc through the TV set and don't let it anywhere near your stereo. You will cry, trust me. Tommy is brilliant in flashes, a mess the rest of the time. Maybe some memories are best left alone.

Rating: ☆☆

Encoding: uneven

Cost: £19.99

Out: now

Contact: PolyGram



The Rolling Stones: Gimme Shelter



As rock documentaries go, "Gimme Shelter" is probably one of the more honest and realistic. Here, at the Altamont Speedway, the hippy generation crashed to earth with a violent, belief-shattering impact. With Altamont and Charles Manson, the 1960s died.

The idea was good. After a record breaking tour of the USA, the Rolling Stones decided to finish off with a free concert near San Francisco. What you get with this Video CD is an absorbing documentary and footage of the Stones at their strutting, bratty best. No, the sound's not too good and yes, compared to modern live films it's basic to say the least, but it's never less than stunning.

The music, interlaced with more conventional documentary footage — film of the band in the studio, at press conferences and even in the editing suite watching themselves watching themselves (if you get the drift) — is shambolic but powerful. Keith Richards appears unseemingly young and with some storming versions of songs such as "Street Fighting Man" and "Wild Horses", it looks as if the Stones are set to write a glowing footnote in the history of the decade.

Then it becomes claustrophobic, tension crackles round the band and the audience, the atmosphere changes from a party mood to one of threat and you see the silhouette of a gun against a girl's crochet dress. Worse follows. The Hell's Angels were asked to look after security at the gig and though subsequent events are muddy and have never been fully understood, the film freezes towards the end and there's a gun, then there's a knife and then there's a body. The rest, as they say, is history.

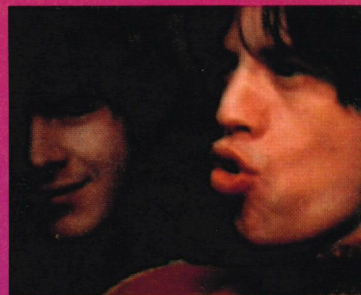
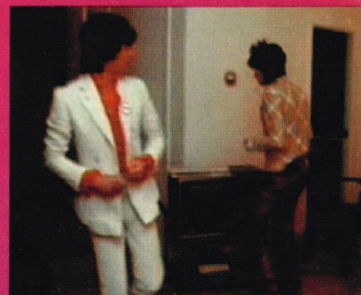
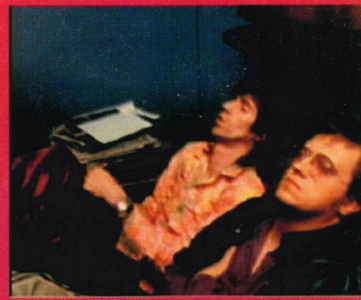
Rating: ☆☆☆☆

Encoding: good

Cost: £19.99

Out: now

Contact: PolyGram on 0181 910 5000



THE ROLLING STONES: GIMME SHELTER

Disc 1

Jumping Jack Flash
(I Can't Get No)
Satisfaction
You Gotta Move
Wild Horses
Brown Sugar
Love In Vain
I've Been Loving You
Too Long

Disc 2

Honky Tonk Woman
Street Fighting Man
Six Days On The Road
The Other Side Of Life
Sympathy For The Devil
Under My Thumb
Gimme Shelter



**Cross Road:
The Best of
Bon Jovi**

Disc 1
Living On A Prayer
Keep The Faith
Wanted Dead Or Alive
Lay Your Hands On Me
You Give Love A Bad Name
Bed Of Roses
Blaze Of Glory
In These Arms

Disc 2
Bad Medicine
I'll Be There For You
Dry Country
Living In Sin
Miracle
I Believe
I'll Sleep When I'm Dead
Always

Cross Road: The Best Of Bon Jovi

Since 1986 and the release of "Slippery When Wet", Bon Jovi have established themselves as one of the largest rock acts in the world. Peddling sub-heavy metal, raucous rockers and the occasional tearful ballad, they've refined and distilled the experiences of suburban American adolescence into a marketable — and more importantly, hummable — product.

So well have they done this that you know, you just know, that when the characters of programmes such as "Beverly Hills 90210" snog they've got a Bon Jovi track running through their heads.

As their audience has grown, the band has matured too. The earlier material is all straight performance video — hi-octane, glitzy and polished. It's all poodle hair, tasselled leather jackets, and audiences swaying in stadiums with their lighters held aloft. Rock n' roll rebellion but sanitised for MTV. Nothing that can really go down in history as classic.

Nowadays, Bon Jovi have come over all blue collar and are trying to be like New Jersey compatriot Bruce Springsteen, only not as good and with more ballads. The hair's shorter, the image grittier and the tasselled leather has been donated to the Germans who seem to like that sort of thing. But they have recorded two really memorable tracks.

The first was Jon Bon Jovi on his own in an attempt to recreate the cowboy myth with "Blaze Of Glory", the theme from "Young Guns II". It's moody, semi-tragic and suitably windswept but nothing compared to "Keep The Faith".

This is the band's finest moment to date, a tough, gnarly, rock track grafted on to a stuttering rhythm that you could probably dance to if you really tried hard enough and coupled with a moody collage of inner city images. The rest is pale by comparison. Hummable, but pale.

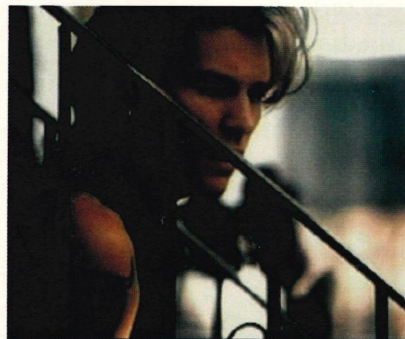
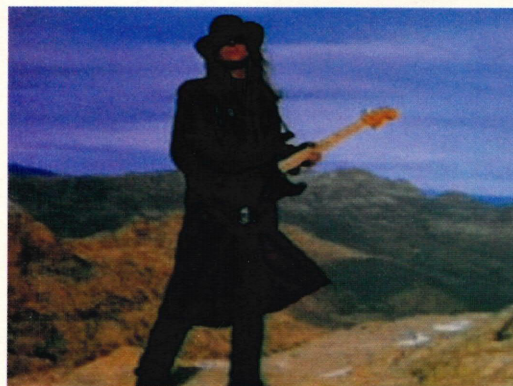
Rating: ☆☆☆

Encoding: good

Cost: £19.99

Out: now

Contact: PolyGram



Abba Gold: Greatest Hits

Disc 1
 Dancing Queen
 Knowing Me Knowing You
 Take A Chance On Me
 Mamma Mia
 Lay All Your Love On Me
 Super Trouper
 The Winner Takes It All
 Money, Money, Money
 S.O.S.

Disc 2
 Chiquitita
 Fernando
 Voulez Vous
 Gimme, Gimme, Gimme
 (A Man After Midnight)
 Does Your Mother Know
 One Of Us
 I Had A Dream
 The Name Of The Game
 Thank You For The Music
 Waterloo



Abba Gold: Greatest Hits

The next time somebody bores you with the old “who are the all-time greatest songwriters ever?” debate and holds forth on the virtues of Lennon and McCartney, make a rude noise and shove these discs under their nose.

Lennon and McCartney? Pah! Mere amateurs compared to Andersson and Ulvaeus.

Abba is one of the greatest pop machines ever — two blokes with daft hair but ears for a fine melody and a catchy chorus, coupled with two women who had the voices of angels. The whole 1970s retro chic revival may have rehabilitated many of the decade’s more ludicrous acts (step forward Boney M), but Abba remain head and shoulders above them all.

“Gold” contains the lot, every sumptuous three minute burst of musical excellence that ascended the globe’s charts. From the classic Europop of “Waterloo”, through the melancholy of “The Winner Takes It All” and out to the scintillating camp of “Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight)”, this is Abba at their peak. The videos? Not a decent one among them, but it doesn’t matter. “Mamma Mia” is a brilliant song, come what may, but what are the odds that four people could wear four such terrible outfits at the same time? We’re talking bad miming, chunky jumpers, inept direction and Bjorn’s haircuts here. Those with delicate sensibilities should take care! In their defence, it has to be said that Agnetha is still the only woman who ever looked good in blue eye-shadow. Buy it, play it, then watch “Muriel’s Wedding” again. This is as good as music gets.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

Encoding: good

Cost: £19.99

Out: now Contact: PolyGram on 0181 910 5000



STOCKING fillers

Choose from our selection of favourite releases this Xmas



FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL (CERT 15)

This is one of the most successful British films ever and made a small fortune at the box office. Hugh Grant stars as roguish(!) bachelor Charles as he and friends make their way through Four Weddings And A Funeral. At the first wedding Charles falls hopelessly for a beautiful American lady (played by the gorgeous Andie MacDowell) and spends the rest of the film pursuing her. This clever comedy is far from predictable. It's a simple plot but it has been rigorously crafted to make it a hugely enjoyable film. Cost: £19.99

FORREST GUMP (CERT 12)

This is one of those films you either love or hate. Everyone went mad for Tom Hanks' touching performance and this unlikely tale turned into Paramount's biggest hit ever. Of course, director Robert Zemeckis knows a thing or two about hits, with "Roger Rabbit" and the "Back To The Future" series. But "Gump" is unlike any of those. It is funny, and it displays some amazing technical wizardry to put Gump in scenes with John F Kennedy and John Lennon, but it's a simple, emotional parable at heart, spanning 30 years of American history. You'll love it! Cost: £19.99.



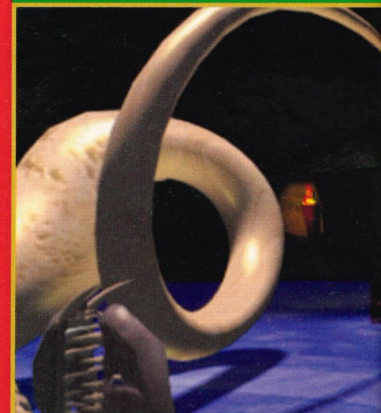
RAGING BULL (18)

Arguably one of the best films ever, and Scorsese and De Niro were made for each other. Brilliantly filmed in black and white, "Raging Bull" is about the unappealing, but utterly absorbing life of prize-fighter Jake La Motta, who was his own worst enemy. It's a gritty, hard-hitting



FLASHBACK

This is the platform game genre taken to its logical conclusion. It is a huge, sprawling game that sucks you in and dominates your life until you finally reach the conclusion. The levels are enormous and should keep you entertained for ages. You play the part of Conrad Hart, who wakes up on an alien planet with memory loss. You must then escape from the aliens who are trying to kill you. Conrad can jump, run, roll and shoot with superb fluid movements and he even manages to fall to a messy death with style. Produced by Delphine Software Cost: £39.99



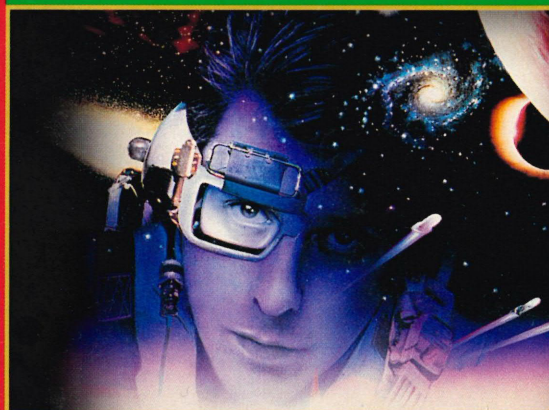
LOST EDEN

What sets Lost Eden apart from other games is the quality of its graphics and the way it draws you into a prehistoric world. As Adam, Prince of Mo, you have to defeat the Tyrans led by the vicious Moorkus Rex and free humanity and the other dinosaurs from his



CLUEDO: THE MYSTERIES CONTINUE

This classic game immerses you in the atmosphere of the original board game by using real actors, including the excellent Joan Sims as Mrs White. All the "live" sequences were filmed at Arlington Hall in Cheshire which brings a hitherto unseen realism to a CDi title. Individual characters can be quizzed about their alibis, fingerprints identified on any weapons you find and clues examined with a magnifying glass. There are three stories, but each has four different outcomes, making 12 scenarios. Produced by 3T Productions Cost: £29.99





THE UNTOUCHABLES (CERT 15)

Master of suspense Brian De Palma turns in a stylish tour de force for this tale about Eliot Ness and his "Untouchables" who took on Al Capone during the Prohibition era. Everything about the film is right. Just look at the cast: Robert De Niro as Capone, Kevin Costner as Ness, Sean Connery in the role that finally brought him an Oscar, Andy Garcia... Add a script by David Mamet packed with memorable lines, and costumes by Armani, and what you get is one of the most stylish and assured Hollywood movies of recent years.

Cost: £17.99

and realistic film. The slice of Italian-American life that it shows is so real you could almost touch it, though it takes a while to get used to the accents — not to mention the strong language. De Niro won Best Actor Oscar for his performance, which has to rank among his best. Cost: £17.99



WITNESS (CERT 15)

Witness is one of those films that manages to combine a cracking good story with intelligent themes, quality film making and a strong cast. Director Peter Weir always makes interesting films, but here everything falls into place to create what many regard as his best film.

It is basically a thriller, and a very effective one at that. But the clash of cultures created when a young Amish boy is the only witness to a big city murder provides a rich seam for Weir to mine, as city cop John Book comes up against the Amish way of life.

Cost: £17.99



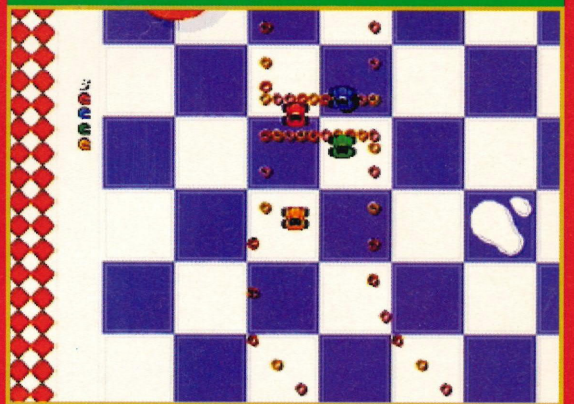
MERLIN'S APPRENTICE

You are the wizard Merlin's apprentice, but the old guy has been hidden by three demons. To find the wizard, you need to complete magical challenges. There are eight categories, from memory tests to secret code puzzles. When you solve a puzzle, your reward is a magical item. At the end of the level, if you mix the right items in the correct order, a magic potion transports you to the next level. The game excels in its presentation and if your brain is up to it, Merlin's Apprentice is well worth a try.

Produced by Philips *FunHouse*

Cost: £29.99

conquering. You arrive in one location, are set a task to complete before moving on to the next level. Eventually you face Moorkus Rex in the final showdown. If you want an immersive and entertaining game, you could do worse than this. Produced by Cryo Interactive Cost: £34.99



MICRO MACHINES

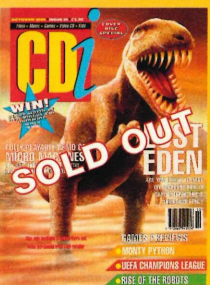
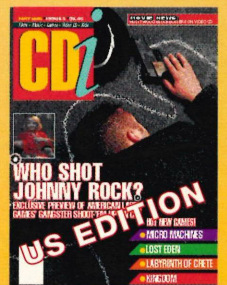
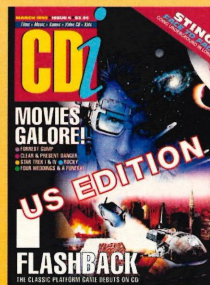
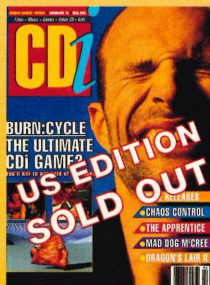
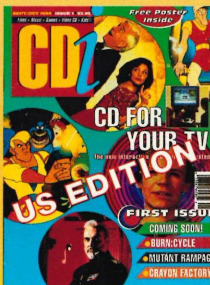
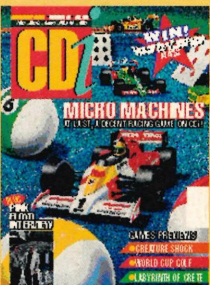
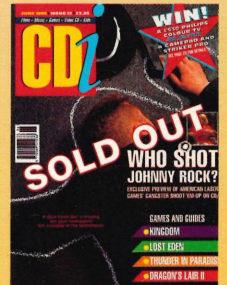
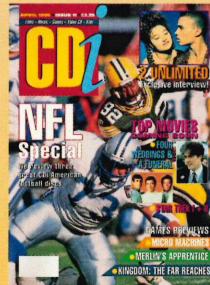
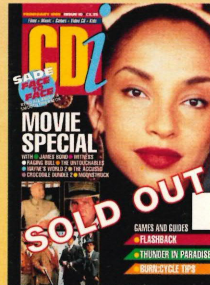
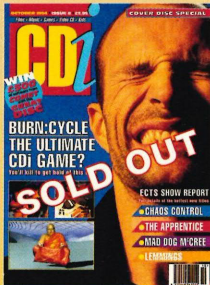
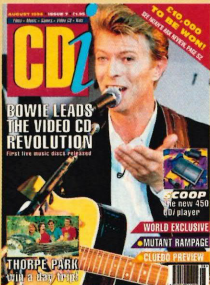
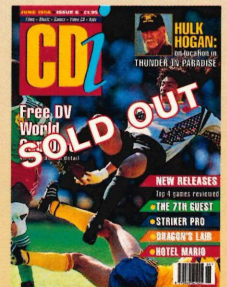
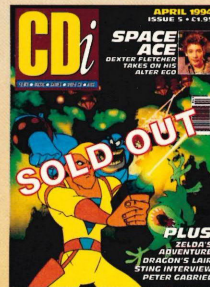
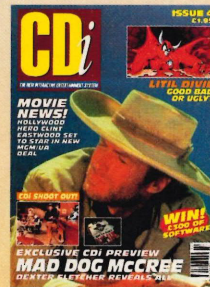
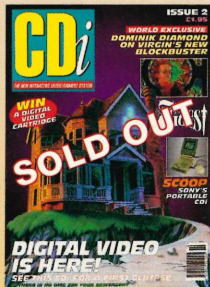
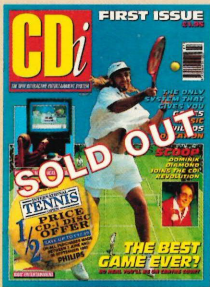
Micro Machines is a great game. You get to race different vehicles — Formula 1 racing cars, tanks, speed boats and helicopters — around locations in the house. So you could guide a Formula 1 car across a billiard table, or a speedboat through the bathtub! One or two players can race against each other, or against three CDI-controlled vehicles. Each race takes place in one of nine environments on 36 tracks and there are 11 zany characters to choose from. It's a slower than on other platforms, but the racing is still great.

Produced by Codemaster

Cost: £34.99

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2 UNLIMITED: BEYOND LIMITS

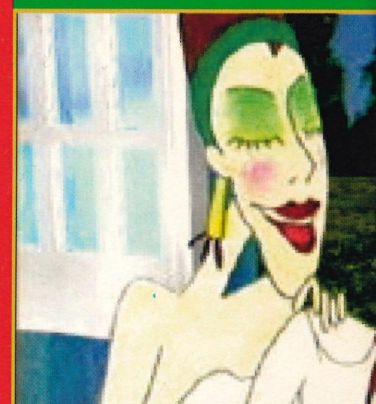
"Beyond Limits" is a reasonable attempt at an interactive pop promo on CDi. It is also a CD Plus disc, which allows you to play it through a conventional hi-fi. The Dutch duo, Anita Dels and Ray Slijngaard, have put together video promos, live interview clips, audio tracks and a scrapbook in a neat package. Highlights include a storming live version of "Tribal Dance" and the entertaining "No Limits" promo video. What makes the disc is the music plus quality encoding and a well-designed interface.

Produced by Eaglevision
Cost: £17.99

THE CRANBERRIES: DOORS AND WINDOWS

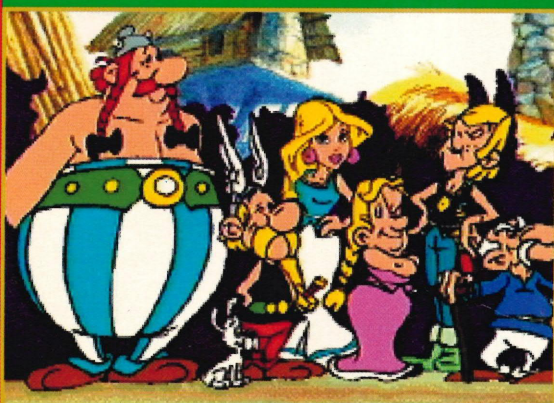
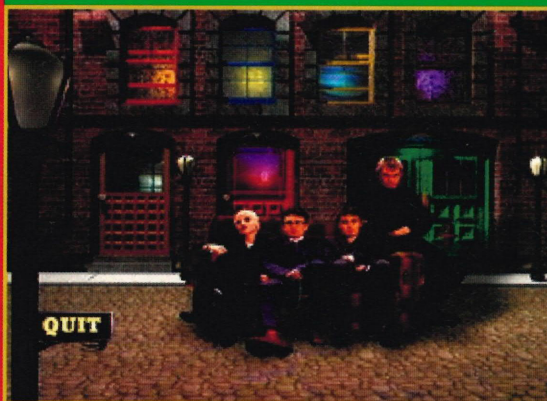
This disc gets into the top five for two reasons: the cranberries are terrific and technically this is the first "Rainbow" multimedia disc. Behind the three doors on the main menu screen are a bar, a rehearsal room and a lounge, which form the core of the disc. Exploring will reveal anything from song books and photo albums to a video of the band performing "Zombie" at Woodstock '94. You can interview them, examine local newspaper coverage of their early days or boot up the audio tracks.

Produced by Island Records/Philips Media
Cost: £19.99



OPERA IMAGINAIRE

For opera buffs and classical music lovers, "Opera Imaginaire" is a real treat. The disc has 12 opera arias, including Tosca, Carmen and Lakme, brought to life by state-of-the-art animations, which are truly superb. Our favourites include the marching pack of



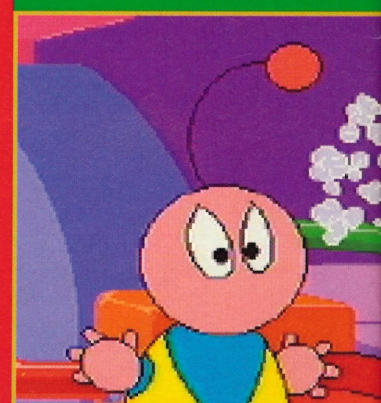
ASTERIX: CAESAR'S CHALLENGE

The wicked Romans have occupied Gaul and only your village remains unscathed. The object is to venture into the Roman empire, collect a souvenir from each place you visit, and return home safely. You take the part of one of a select band of characters and you can play on your own against the CDi player, or other human players. You will be guided by Gedifix the Druid who doles out the magic potion, which comes in handy. Once you have the souvenirs, you must smuggle them back home to defeat Caesar.

Produced by Infogrames
Cost: £29.99

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

Editor's bias on this one. I adored this film as a child and remember seeing it on one of my first trips to the cinema. Dick Van Dyke plays an inventor who can never build anything that actually works. Then one day he takes a beaten up old car and transforms it into a flying car. The children who get to fly in it are thrilled to bits, particularly when car and inventor help them overthrow a child-hating government. Some of the scenes are superb. The wicked and deceptive Child Catcher is still the stuff that nightmares are made of. Ideal family entertainment for those Christmas evenings. Cost: £17.99



CRAYON FACTORY

Saturday, an adorable robot, works in the Crayon Factory with colourful characters as they merrily produce different crayons. Everyone is happy until the evil Mr Penn arrives to manage the factory. Out go some of the older workers and in come unpopular



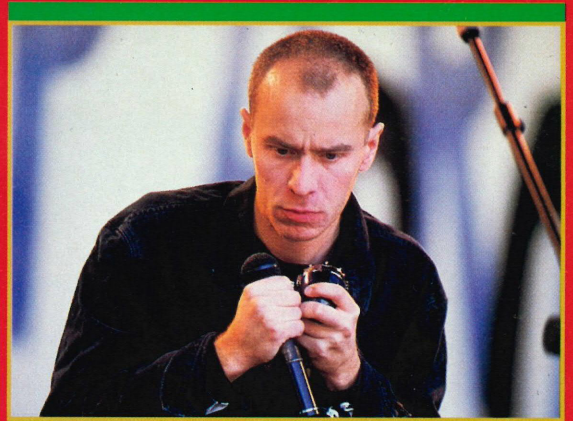
playing cards and the dancing French pastries. This is a treat for the eyes and the ears which should, ideally, be played through your hi-fi system as well as your TV. Even if you are not an opera buff, you are missing something special if you don't watch this Video CD.

Cost: £17.99

XPLORA 1: PETER GABRIEL'S SECRET WORLD

Peter Gabriel's first foray into multimedia is an exceptional piece of work with real depth. Gabriel obviously cares as much about the visual quality of his work as about the aural. The interface, a picture of Gabriel's face, allows you to explore four sections. There is the "US" section, with the music and videos from the "All About Us" album; a behind-the-scenes look at the Real World studios and Gabriel's personal file. But visuals are stunning — look at the layers of imagery in the video for "Kiss That Frog", for example. Produced by Real World Multimedia

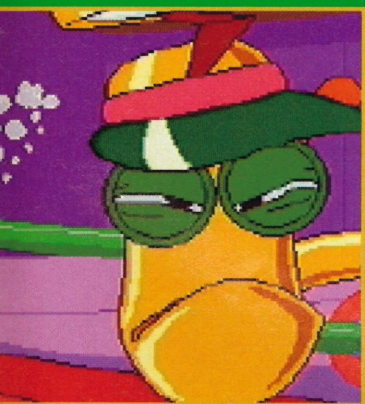
Cost: £39.99



THE THE: INFECTED — THE MOVIE

There is nothing interactive about this disc, but we picked it for the quality of the music and the videos. Matt Johnson's band released "Infected" in the 1980s. Its agenda was sweeping: Thatcherism, AIDS, the welfare state and Vietnam, all bugged into a melting pot of unrest. The music doesn't seem dated or contrived, even in the 1990s, and visually it remains excellent. Johnson navigates through a landscape of unsettling images running the gamut from gunboats heading up river in South East Asia to decaying inner city landscapes.

Cost: £17.99



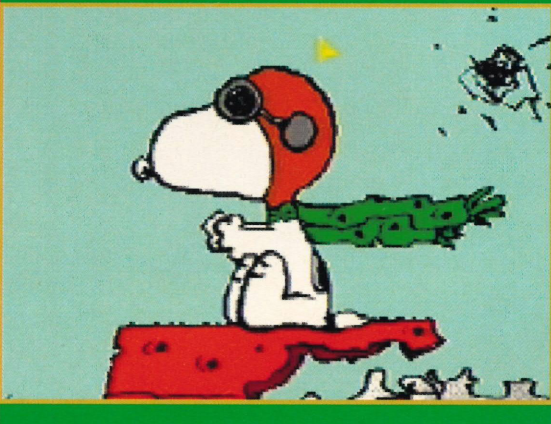
working practices. Children can watch the story unfold or take a factory tour. If they take the tour, they can learn to mix and sort colours, check patterns and adjust machinery. This disc is ideally suited for children aged four to eight. Produced by SideWalk Studio

Cost: £29.99

PEANUTS: YEARN TO LEARN

Snoopy and the Peanuts gang make their debut on CDi with this interactive learning disc. Kids aged three to 10 can practice maths, geography, reading and colouring with the popular comic strip characters. Each exercise can be adapted to a child's ability by increasing or decreasing the difficulty level. The colouring section provides 10 pictures of the Peanuts gang, various crayon sizes and 13 talking crayons. Up to 40 coloured drawings can be saved and worked on again and again. Produced by Image Smith Inc.

Cost: £19.99



THUMBELINA INTERACTIVE

The film is divided into seven stories, all with interactive elements, so you can read the story yourself, or read with the narrator, solve picture puzzles, sing to the songs, paint scenes from the film or identify animals. If you complete a puzzle correctly, a clip from the film will play in Digital Video. While the animation is not quite in the same league as Disney, kids who enjoyed the linear Video CD will delight in playing with this interactive version. Produced by Epic Interactive, published by Spice Multimedia

Cost: £29.99

FLASHBACK PLAYER'S GUIDE

If the excellent Flashback has been driving you nuts, hang on. This month we begin our in-depth guide to a real corker of a game

LEVEL 1:

GETTING STARTED

From the start position, drop off the first couple of ledges and walk left to drop into the screen below. Pick up the Holocube to activate the first door you arrive at on this level. Now go back to the start position and journey right, jumping over the two gaps you come across.

To kill the first guard you meet, drop off the ledges until you are standing just above him, draw your gun, drop down in front of him and then just shoot to kill.

Walk left and drop into the next screen, walk left again and pick up the stone. If you walk further left until you are behind the "wall" then jump on to the ledge, you will find ten credits.

To kill the second guard you encounter, drop down onto the same level as him and walk right until you are standing on the edge. Don't worry about the guard firing at you, as you are shielded by the door. The next bit is tricky and you will need to be fast. Jump over the gap on to the small ledge and while

in mid-air, draw your gun. When you land, the door shielding you from the guard will open, so duck down, quickly turn around and then shoot the guard dead. Pick up the empty cartridge which the dead guard drops.

Once you have the cartridge, you need to recharge it by insert-

ing it into an energy generator. The generator can be found by going down the hole to the bottom right, down to the bottom of the next screen and then journey right, avoiding the green haze and electricity until you find the generator.

Once the cartridge has been recharged,

go all the way to the left until you come to the cartridge lock, and insert the cartridge into the lock to make the energy bridge appear.

There is a wounded man on this level who needs you to find a teleporter for him to escape to safety. To find the teleporter, go left over the bridge and again avoid the electricity in the ground, jump on to the lift in the centre of the screen and go up to the top. It won't matter if you are hit once or twice as there is an energy generator nearby to replenish your shield. Walk right into the

next screen and press the switch to turn off the deadly haze, jump over the sensor otherwise the haze will reappear and walk into the next screen.

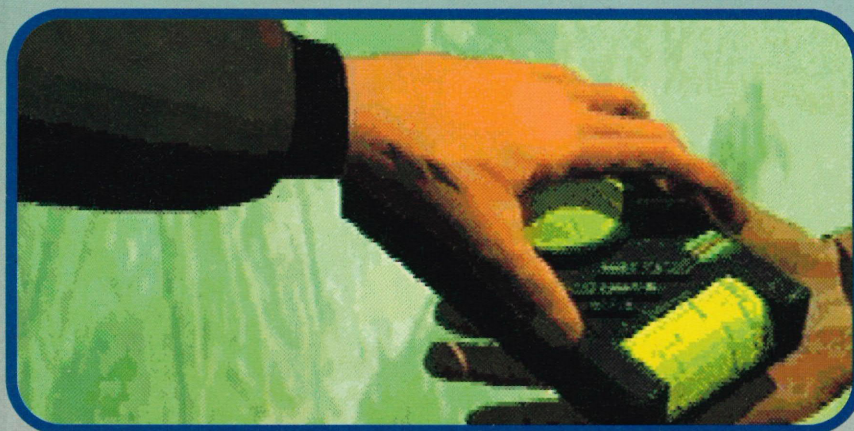
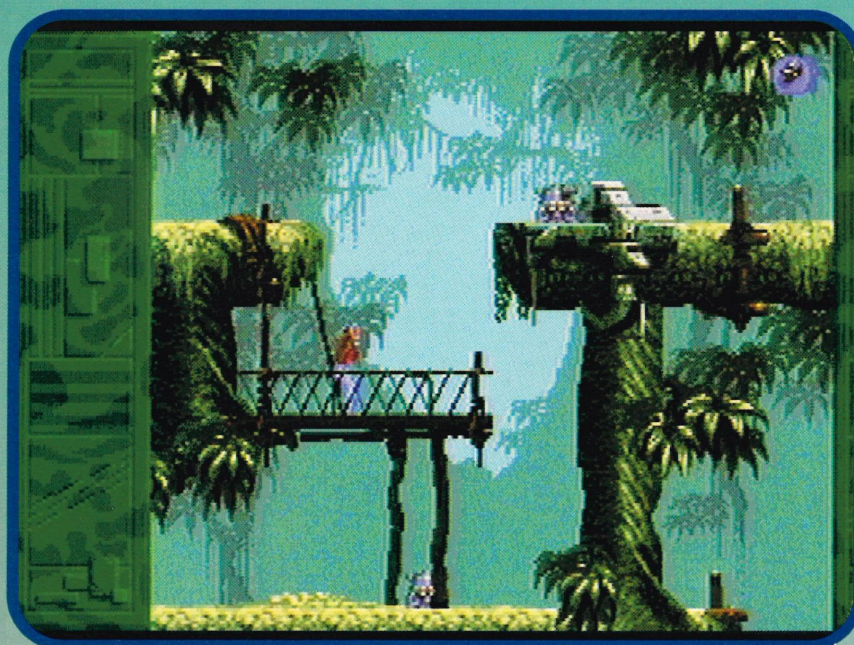
You will now encounter a guard waiting beneath you. To kill him, stand on the edge of the ledge and throw a stone over his head. When he turns around to see what it was, draw your gun, drop down and shoot him. Pick up the 100 credits he drops and walk into the next screen where you find a key. Pick it up. Pick up the other 50 credits.

Before you go into the next screen to the right, draw your gun as there is another guard waiting. Roll into the screen and shoot the guard immediately. This screen contains the 500 credits you need in order to complete this level. They are in the top right-hand corner. When attempting to get the credits, be sure not to touch the sensor next to the generator or you will set off a couple of lasers which are difficult to negotiate.

Get on top of the first ledge on the lefthand side of the screen.

Run across and do a running jump on to the platform above and pull yourself up.

You should now have avoided any sensors that activate the lasers. Jump over to the ledge on the right and pick up the 500 credits. There is also an energy generator





until you are allowed to speak to the Governor. She will give you a work permit in return for your ID. Go to the employment agency and start the missions.

MISSION 1

Go to Asia Station and take the package from the attendant at Titan Travel. Go to the travel agency at Africa Station and give them the package.

MISSION 2

Go to Restricted Area 2 and guide the VIP through the zone to the exit. You should have few real problems other than locked doors. Usually you will have to work your way around to a switch which will open the door. There is also a key which must be collected from a room with two small floating robots. You need to fire your gun at each robot from a distance, so that it is held at bay until it is destroyed.

MISSION 3

Go to the bar in America Station and talk to the customer. make your way down to the policeman outside Restricted Area 1 and speak to him, before returning to the bar. Watch for the sudden appearance of the alien. After talking to the customer again, return to the policeman at the restricted zone, kill him and pick up the key he drops. This key can be used to open the hatch in

the floor to the left of the bar. Go down the hatch and kill the Replicant. The best technique to use when fighting the Replicant is to shoot him until he turns his force field on, then immediately turns to face the opposite direction and shoot him again when he runs past you. Continue this procedure until he is killed.

MISSION 4

No real problems here except timing. Don't worry too much about losing shield energy as speed is more important. Ignore the stone you find on top of a ledge when you get near the terminal. Once you find the terminal, insert the card. You will need to be positioned to the right of the centre of the machine.

MISSION 5

Enter Restricted Area 3 at Europe Station and kill all the mutants. You should have few real problems if you have progressed this far into the game. After you have completed the missions, go to the Employment Agency at Europe Station and then talk to Jack the forger near the bar at America Station. Give all your credits to Jack and take the forged papers. Finally, go to the ticket desk for the Death Tower game at Europe Station and give them your forged papers.

To be continued.....

to replenish your shield if you need to. Avoid the sensors again when leaving the screen by using the same method. To find the man with the gravity belt, go all the way back over the energy bridge and save your position. Drop down into the screen below and insert your ID card into the slot machine. Walk through the door that opens, drop down and walk left until standing on the edge of the ledge. **DO NOT DROP DOWN.** Instead, carefully lower yourself down or you will drop to your death. You should now see two guards at the bottom of the screen. To kill them, drop down and draw your gun while in mid-air. As soon as you land on the ground, turn

around and shoot them both. If you are lucky, the laser will shoot one of the guards but be careful not to be hit by one of the lasers yourself. Keep walking right until you come to an old man. Give him the 500 credits and he will then give you the anti-gravity belt. Jump into the hole to enter level 2.

LEVEL 2:

TITAN BASE

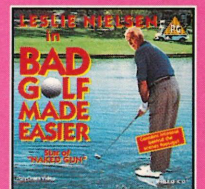
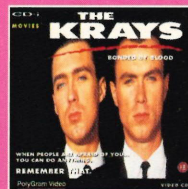
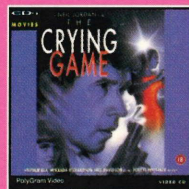
New Washington: Find Ian and talk to him. Use the seat and then talk to him again — this will open the door on the right. Before going through the door, search the levels below until you find the recharge point to recharge your shield. Go through the right-hand door and jump

right, across and down the hole. Kill the aliens and search around until you find the fuse. Return to the broken switch beside the large hole and repair it with the fuse. Go up the lifts, ignoring the man and walk left to the checkpoint. Go down the lift to the subway. Subway: Before starting missions take the metro to America Station and go up the lifts until you find a bar. Talk to the bar keeper, before looking for Jack the forger, to the right of the bar. You now need to earn enough credits to buy forged papers from Jack, so take the metro to Africa Station and find the administration centre. Talk to the people behind the counters

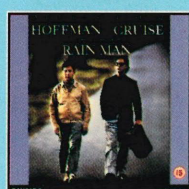
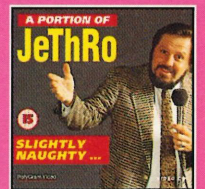
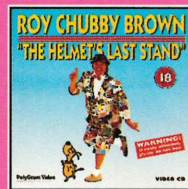
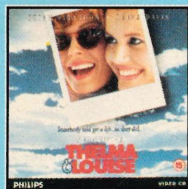
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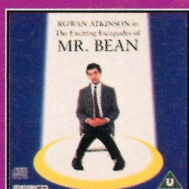
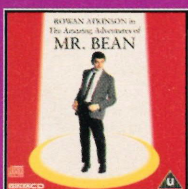
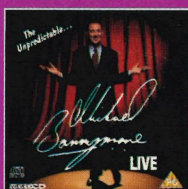
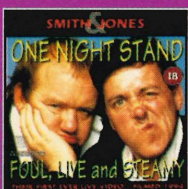
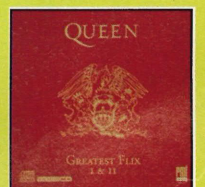
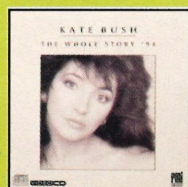
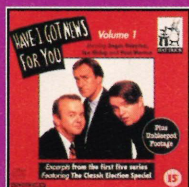
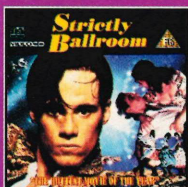
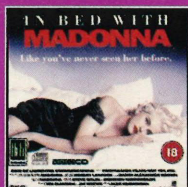
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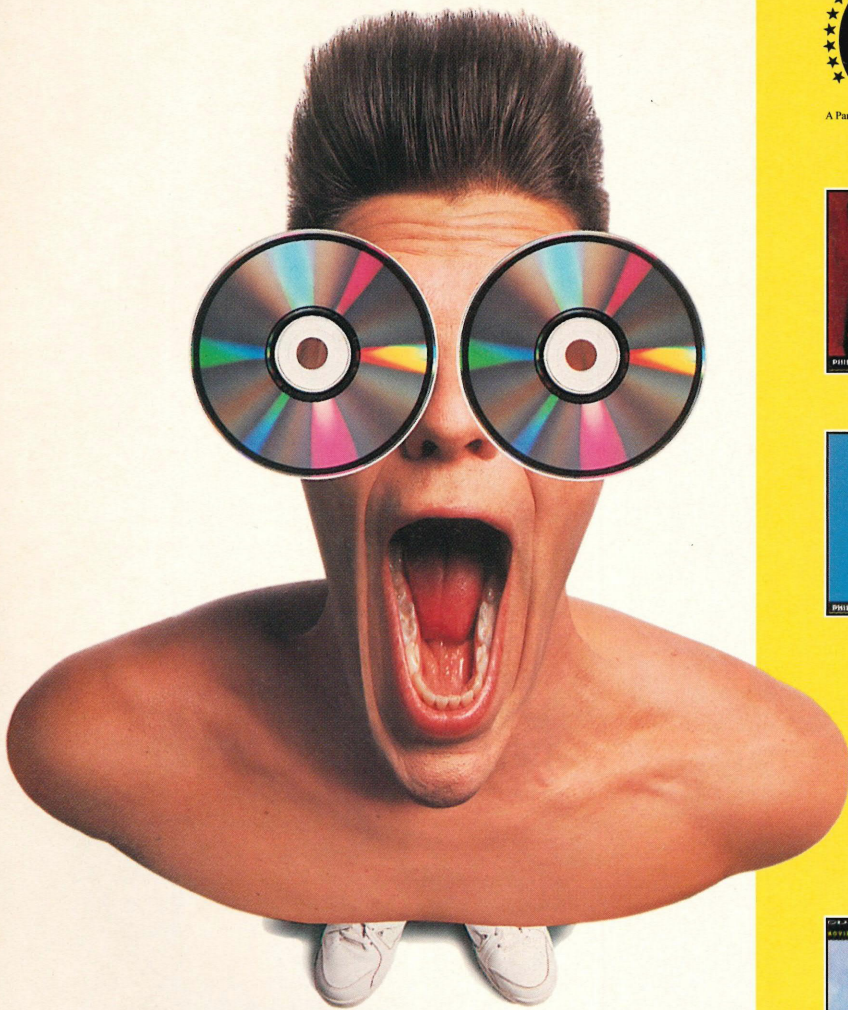


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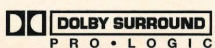
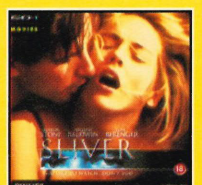
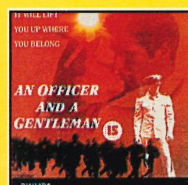
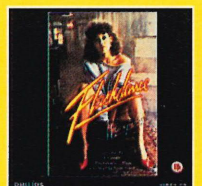
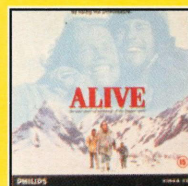
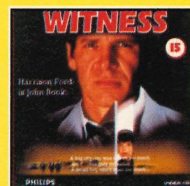
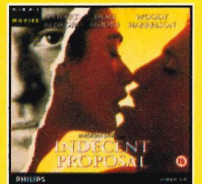
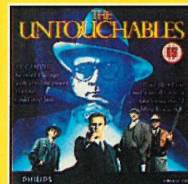
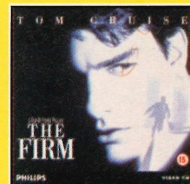
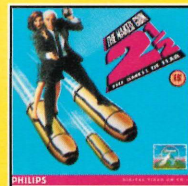
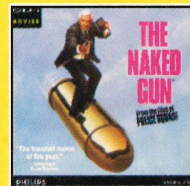
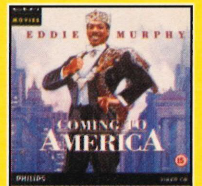
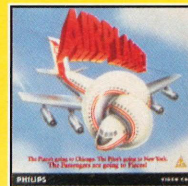
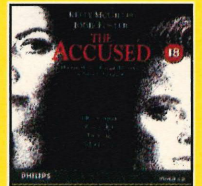
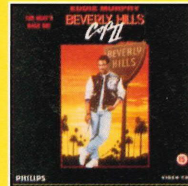
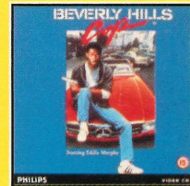
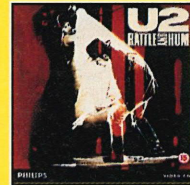
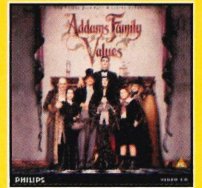
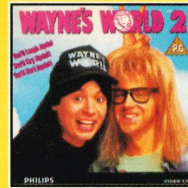
CD-i OFFERS THE EXPERIENCE OF HOME CINEMA WITH MOST VIDEO CD RELEASES BEING ENCODED WITH DOLBY* SURROUND SOUND.




**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
TELEPHONE PHILIPS MEDIA CLUBLINE
0891 244424**



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DOLBY AND THE DOUBLE-D SYMBOL  ARE TRADEMARKS OF DOLBY LABORATORIES LICENSING CORPORATION.



PHILIPS

Write to CDi Magazine, Haymarket Publishing, 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 OJE



stepping sideways

Could it be that Philips is simply milking a system that is failing by constantly repackaging the same basic machine, before bailing out to the new DVD format?

No major upgrade has been announced since the first CDi player was launched and it still uses the same 16-bit processor and single speed CD-ROM drive in this age of 32 or 64 bit systems with double or even quad speed drives.

The new model CDi 470 is just a disappointing step sideways. I have backed CDi for some time, waiting for the phoenix to rise, but my patience is waning.

Paul Bocking
Blaydon

Philips replies: CDi is not just a games system, but an all round home entertainment system. It has been upgraded since launch with Digital Video and now with Internet access. We are not bailing out to DVD — Philips will continue to support CDi and VCD in its current form.

just desserts?

I bought my CDi 210 in December 1993 and have 28 discs. I have also been reading your magazine since issue 1.

However, I wonder whether the people from Philips have ever looked at it.

Let me explain. In every issue, you only have to read the letters page to see that CDi owners are disappointed with the amount of good games software released. I believe that 90% of owners bought CDi as a games machine.

play is the name of the game

I have had my CDi 210 since mid 1993, and until recently I had almost given up hope for CDi. So far Philips has done a good job of releasing games that have been either a waste of time or just had no gameplay at all. There have been a few exceptions, such as Burn:Cycle and The Apprentice.

Now it looks as if the future is much brighter for CDi with the release of games such as Micro Machines and Flashback, both of which are great. It would be nice to have more games on CDi that go for playability rather than just excellent graphics.

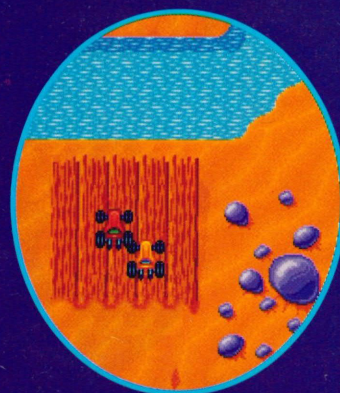
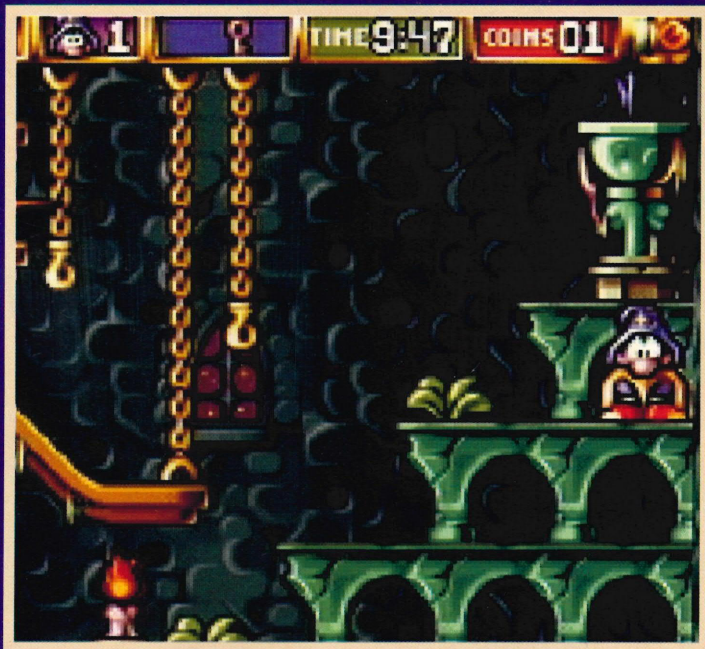
Chaos Control is a good example with its excellent graphics, but it is far too easy to complete.

One last point. Are there any plans for Doom or Doom 2 to be released on CDi?

Mark Hawkes
Plymouth

I know of no plans for either of the Doom titles to be released on CDi. New games due next year with better playability include Secret Mission, Creature Shock, Crime Patrol and Down In The Dumps.

ED



magnificent micro machine

After reading the review of Micro Machines in the August issue, I was one of the few who was not convinced that the game would live up to its hype on the CDi platform, particularly after the dire gameplay and graphics of Video Speedway.

So I waited with baited breath for the free disc with the October issue, to give it a "test-drive". The first thing I noticed was the brilliant graphics and even better gameplay. Now, after only two days, I am completely hooked and am waiting for the finished game to hit the streets.

I must congratulate Philips Media and Codemasters for making the "best CDi racing game yet". For once, I agree! Well done.

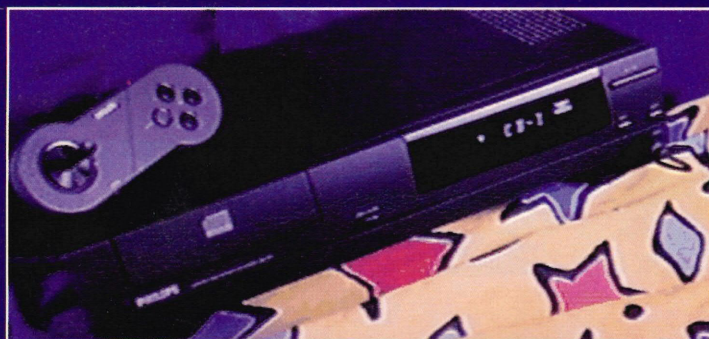
W M Baxter
Biggleswade

Like many other people, I have made a commitment to Philips by buying this machine and I think we deserve a lot better. I am

sick and tired of walking into large computer game shops and looking at endless rows of the latest games on CD-ROM and a handful of dusty

CDi titles in one corner. So come on Philips, it's time to wake up. Don't you realise the Sega Saturn and Sony PlayStation are here and unless you watch out, CDi is going to die. And that would be a shame.

D J Hallworth
Barry



Philips replies: we are totally committed to CDi, but it is not sold just as a games system. There is a full roster of new titles for '96, including games.

ED

damp squibs

I would like to see a new feature in CDi Magazine. It should be called "Dangling Carrots". The feature would include a summary of previews and screenshots of the games (usually the most promising ones) that never got off the ground, and a damned good explanation why from Philips. I am sure this would fill up a

few more pages and keep CDi fans hanging in there!

No name supplied
Hertfordshire

Inevitably, some games are cancelled due to insurmountable technical problems. We do try to keep you up-to-date.

ED

quality control



I recently bought "Beverly Hills Cop III" on Video CD, but I am disappointed with the encoding on this otherwise enjoyable film. Surely better results should be obtainable from an apparently digitally sourced film. I find the encoding quality to be better on older films such as "Top Gun", "Ghost" and "Addams Family Values", although the more recent "Four Weddings And A Funeral" was excellent. I'm a big fan of movies on CD, but if the quality cannot be assured is it really worth the time and money? When I contacted the Philips Media hotline, I was informed by the woman on the phone (whose honesty was refreshing) that they could only encode a quality product if a quality master tape was provided. This begs the

question: is it really worth releasing an inferior product which can only serve to damage the already dwindling credibility of CDi? Maybe I am expecting too much of the MPEG standard, but I would like to think not.

Paul Jones
London

It is true that the encoding of the finished film on Video CD depends enormously on the quality of the original master tape. If a D1 broadcast standard tape is supplied, the quality can be excellent. Anything less, and quality can suffer. It is my understanding that Philips Media is now only encoding films when a D1 tape is available. Clear And Present Danger is superb.

ED

Electronic Mail



In Box

Out Box No messages for delivery

Compose

Bin

netting CDi

CDi and the Internet, who would have thought it was possible? Well done Philips, this is exactly the kind of thing CDi needs if it is to survive (along with LOTS more quality games). My only worry is how much the Internet connection will affect the subscriber's phone bill.

Richard Eastwood
Benfleet

Obviously, it depends how long you spend "on-line", but most connections are charged at local call rate.

ED

information system

Keep up the good work of informing CDi owners about what is in the pipeline. I have several questions:

- 1) Why did you put the August Readers' Survey away from the centre pages, so I had to tear out other articles?
- 2) Why do advertisers show titles for sale which have never been mentioned in your magazine?
- 3) When will the 11th Hour, the sequel to the brilliant 7th

Guest, be available on CDi?
4) When will Philips produce a driving game to the standard of Sega's Daytona USA?

5) Please keep the cover discs coming. Showing us what the game actually looks like on disc, as well as reviewing it in the magazine, gives us the information we need before deciding to spend £30-40 on a game.

Marc Grayland
Birmingham

1) One of our key advertisers had booked the centre spread for the August issue, so we couldn't put the survey there. But you can always photocopy the form if you don't want to rip it out of the magazine.

- 2) We try to review as many CDi/Video CD titles as possible, but we don't always have room for everything and sometimes it is hard to get hold of the discs in advance.
- 3) Philips Media is not producing the 11th Hour on CDi, but the excellent Heart Of Darkness will be out in 1996.
- 4) Hopefully next year.
- 5) Glad you like our cover discs. We will try and keep them coming!

ED

putting a finger on the pulse

I would like to bring to your attention a screen clip in Burn:Cycle. It starts when Cutter and Chris are in Cutter's hotel room and he puts on the smoke goggles. Chris asks Cutter about the green ball. Notice now that Cutter is not wearing the goggles. I wonder if any other eagle-eyed CDi players have noticed this? In the August issue, you said that Pink Floyd's "Pulse" album was due out on Video CD on 28 July. But to my dismay it does not seem to

be in the shops. Has it been delayed, or is there a technical fault with the disc?

William Baxter
Biggleswade

The Pink Floyd "Pulse" disc was indeed delayed. According to EMI, there were some encoding problems with it. I now understand it will be released next year. Call EMI on 0171 605 5000 for further information.

ED



CHILDREN'S TITLES

ASTERIX: CAESAR'S CHALLENGE

Fun and games with Asterix the Gaul and friends.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 019 8

A VISIT TO SESAME STREET – LETTERS

Meet the characters from the TV series and explore the world of Sesame Street.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 018 2

A VISIT TO SESAME STREET – NUMBERS

Visit Bert and Ernie's place, Big Bird's House and the Count's Castle.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 019 2

BERENSTAIN BEARS

Meet the Berenstain Bears and follow the young bears trying to persuade their parents to let them go to the fair.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 007 6

BRER RABBIT AND THE WONDERFUL TAR BABY

The story of Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox told by Danny Glover.

Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 045 2

CARTOON CARNIVAL (DV)

Classic cartoons from Hanna Barbera. Each time you win a game, collect a letter.

Spell Cartoon Carnival, and you are rewarded with a cartoon.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 016 5

CARTOON JUKEBOX

Favourite tunes such as Pop Goes the Weasel and Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 001 2

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL THEATRE

Customise your own songs and watch as they are performed by musical animals.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 008 2

CRAYON FACTORY

Join Saturday (narrated by Julie Walters) and friends in the crayon factory. (December)

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 020 6

DARK FABLES OF AESOP

Twelve moral tales narrated by Danny Glover.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 085 2

FACE KITCHEN

French chef Uby cooks up some very funny faces.

Choose a combination of lips, eyes and hair and bring the results to life.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 811 000 2

FLINTSTONES / JETSONS TIMEWARP

In this original animated adventure, a time machine warps George Jetson back to prehistoric times and Fred Flintstone into the future.

Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 010 4

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S THUMBELINA (DV)

Read, sing, colour and count with all the delightful characters from Thumbelina's tiny world.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 101 4

HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP

Rudyard Kipling's popular tale of the lazy camel.

Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 021 2

KISS

An electronic magazine for teenage girls with tips on fashion, make-up and health.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 811 004 7

LITTLE MONSTER AT SCHOOL

The interactive version of the popular children's book.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 017 1

MAX MAGIC

The first electronic magic set that allows children to amaze their family and friends with tricks that boggle the mind.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 019 1

MORE DARK FABLES FROM AESOP

Twelve more tales narrated by Danny Glover.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 086 2

MOTHER GOOSE HIDDEN PICTURES

An animated activity book combining hearing and seeing nursery rhymes.

Price £7.99 Cat. No. 690 015 2

MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES TO COLOUR

Mother Goose escorts your children as they wander through their favourite nursery rhymes.

Price £7.99 Cat. No. 690 016 2

MUZZY (DV)

A hugely popular BBC TV series debuts on CDi. A simple and fun way for young children to learn French.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 008 4

PAINT SCHOOL 1

Choose from several hundred scenes to paint.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 009 2

PAINT SCHOOL 2

More pictures to paint using the CDi's huge colour palette.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 002 2

PEANUTS: YEARN TO LEARN

Learning made fun and easy with one of the world's most famous cartoon characters. (December)

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 819 101 3

PECOS BILL

A colourful retelling of the

legend of Pecos Bill – the fearless buckaroo. Narration by Robin Williams.

Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 012 2

RICHARD SCARRY'S BUSIEST NEIGHBOURHOOD DISC EVER

Explore the wonderful world of Busytown.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 038 2

RICHARD SCARRY'S BEST NEIGHBOURHOOD DISC EVER

The second in the popular series. Visit the library, the fire station or your home.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 037 2

ROUTES TO READING

Interactive learning for young readers. Contains five popular story books from Collins' Bookbus series.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 005 0

SANDY'S CIRCUS ADVENTURE

Sandy, the cuddly sea lion, is lost in the circus and your child is invited along.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 022 2

SANTA CLAUS'S MICE

A Christmas fairy story.

Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 001 2

SHIPWRECK

Learn about electricity and how it works by completing certain tasks or playing an exciting adventure game.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 002 5

SOUNDTRAP

Second in the series of interactive learning discs, it explores the creation of sound waves.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 003 2

STICKYBEAR FAMILY FUN

Hours of enjoyment as Stickybear helps you play a number of simple but rewarding games.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 023 7

STICKYBEAR MATHS

Children help the Stickybear family succeed in this animated adventure by solving problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 006 4

STICKYBEAR PRE-SCHOOL

Encourage your pre-schooler's natural inquisitiveness and budding independence with this great learning title.

Price £24.99 Cat.No. 810 021 8

STORY MACHINE MAGIC TALES

Create your own fairy tales or adventure stories by adding your own scenes, characters, narration and dialogue.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 025 2

STORY MACHINE STAR DREAMS

Star Dreams whisks you away on an intergalactic adventure of your own making. Create your own stories.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 024 2

SURF CITY

Sing along to the superb music of the Beach Boys as you explore a typical 1960s beach town in America.

Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 009 1

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

This version of one of Hans Christian Andersen's best-loved tales is told by Sir John Gielgud.

Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 042 2

TIM & BEAR AT THE AIRPORT

Learning adventures with Tim and his cuddly toy bear on their first journey to an airport.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 019 3

TIM & BEAR AT THE HARBOUR

Tim and Bear experience business and have fun down at the waterfront.

Price £19.99 Cat.No. 811 005 4

TOM'S MAGIC PICTURE SHOW

Help to enrich your child's English vocabulary and ensure that they make steps in languages such as French and Spanish.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 000 9

ZOMBIE DINOS FROM PLANET ZELTOD

Dexter the Dinodroid takes you back to the days when dinosaurs ruled the earth.

Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 001 8

CHILDREN'S VIDEO CD

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG (VCD)

Classic kids' film about a mad inventor played by Dick Van Dyke who creates a magical flying car.

Price £17.99 Cat.No. 811 203 9

LEARN WITH SOOTY (VCD)

This popular character has been delighting children for over 50 years. This Start to Read disc was devised in consultation with educational specialists.

Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 7

PADDINGTON BEAR (VCD)

Four episodes of the loveable Paddington Bear feature on this two disc set.

Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 250 7

THE BFG (VCD)

Based on the best-selling novel by Roald Dahl. A full length animated film featuring the voice of David Jason as the Big Friendly Giant.

Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 6

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS (VCD)

A Tale of Two Toads. This feature length story is brought to life by the voices of Peter Sallis and David Jason.

Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 8

THE SECRET OF NIMH (VCD)

The story of timid Mrs Brisby, a widowed field mouse, who must summon the courage to defy man, beast and nature.

Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 204 0

THE BLACK STALLION (VCD)

A touching story about the adventures of a young boy and his friendship with an Arabian horse.

Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 203 7

THUMBELINA (VCD)

The classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale featuring a tiny girl no bigger than a thumb. Don Bluth animation brings this delightful children's tale to life.

Price £17.99 Cat. No. 819 101 5

GAMES

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Roam around Wonderland as you try to solve the rhymes and puzzles that will take you on to the next level.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 065 2

ALIEN GATE

Hordes of nasty monsters are advancing through the Alien Gate with one objective – the destruction of your world.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 004 9

BACKGAMMON

Everything you need to play backgammon on CDi, including three animated opponents each with a different skill level, from beginner to expert.

Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 039 2

BATTLESHIP

You command a fleet of five ships. Your mission is to seek and destroy your enemy's ships before he destroys yours.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 033 2

BURN:CYCLE

Sol Cutter has passed out in the Softech Corporation where his brain has been downloaded with a computer virus. A live action cyberpunk game.

Price £44.99 Cat. No. 810 011 4

CAESARS WORLD OF BOXING (DV)

Join the boxers, promoters, managers and reporters at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 014 3

CAESARS WORLD OF GAMBLING

Experience the real sights and sounds of the Caesars Palace casinos.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 027 2

CD SHOOT

Practise your clay shooting skills.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 811 001 4

CHAOS CONTROL (DV)

This fast-paced arcade game with 5 different levels is based entirely on computer graphics in which the aim is to defeat an alien fleet which is invading the solar system.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 020 0

CHRISTMAS CRISIS (DV)

Help Father Christmas find his festive cheer in this simple platform game.

(December)

Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 031 3

CLUEDO (DV)

While remaining faithful to the original board game, Cluedo on CDi is a slick and polished electronic murder mystery game for all the family. Live video brings it all to life.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 819 100 2

CLUEDO: THE MYSTERIES CONTINUE (DV)

The second series of interactive murder mysteries filmed at Arlington Hall in Cheshire.

Plenty more fun with Professor Plum, Miss Scarlet, Colonel Mustard and company.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 103 8



CONNECT FOUR

The CDi version of the popular vertical chequers game.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 020 2

DEFENDER OF THE CROWN

The Saxon lords have chosen you to lead them in the fight against the hated Normans.

Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 069 2

DIMO'S QUEST

Dimo takes you on a "candy quest" as you battle your way through an increasingly difficult series of mazes.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 016 6

DRAGON'S LAIR 1 (DV)

Second in the series of CDi arcade games by Hollywood animation specialist Don Bluth.

Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 018 1

DRAGON'S LAIR 2 (DV)

Dirk the Daring is back in this madcap sequel to the original Dragon's Lair.

Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 012 5

EARTH COMMAND

Your task is to save the world from impending environmental disaster.

Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 007 2

ESCAPE FROM CYBERCITY

Your mission is to survive the dangers of CyberCity, fight your way to the train and destroy the Guardian's planet.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 071 2

FLASHBACK

2142 AD. Battle your way back to Earth to stop the invading mutant forces... FlashBack: the ultimate test in survival – the ultimate platform game with an incredible number of levels.

Price: £34.99 Cat. No. 811 020 2

HOTEL MARIO

The world's most popular plumber makes his debut on CDi. Seven different locations and 80 levels to explore.

Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 009 0

INCA

You are the last surviving Inca. To save your race you must journey across space, battling

enemies and collecting special powers on the way.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 012 6

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS OPEN

The popular tennis simulation game is in a two-player version so you can fight to match point against your friends and family.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 008 2

INVASION FROM THE PLANET SKYRON (DV)

Interactive adventures with the Monty Python team.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 100 7

KETHER

Stunning graphics in this mix of arcade action and puzzle solving.

Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 012 8

KINGDOM (DV)

Role playing/fantasy adventure game including 30 minutes of video.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 025 2

LASER LORDS

You can explore alien worlds in the Laser Lords' star cruiser.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 074 2

LEMMINGS

The classic game! Prevent these furry little creatures from killing themselves in over 100 dangerous and puzzling scenes.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 011 1

LINK: FACES OF EVIL

Ganon has captured the island of Koridai and Link must save it from the Faces of Evil.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 008 0

LITIL DIVIL (DV)

Poor old Mutt must work his way through the Labyrinth of Chaos. A game of exploration, fighting and puzzle solving.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 016 9

LORDS OF THE RISING SUN

A Japanese strategy game featuring live actors and interesting gameplay.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 098 2

LOST EDEN (DV)

Defeat the evil Moorkus Rex so dinosaurs and humans can live-together in peace. (December)

Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 029 2

MAD DOG MCCREE (with gun) (DV)

A quality shoot-'em-up set in a ramshackle Western. Released with the Peacekeeper revolver.

Price £69.99 Cat. No. 810 008 9

MEGAMAZE

A series of ever more complex mazes will test your wits to the full in this exciting game of skill.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 008 3

MERLIN'S APPRENTICE

A mysterious, magical tale of medieval sorcery with over 30 different puzzles for all the family.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 019 2

MICRO MACHINES

One of the most playable games ever created — the racing classic, now re-issued for CDi with two extra levels.

Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 029 1

MUTANT RAMPAGE (DV)

A good old-fashioned beat-'em-up set in a post-apocalyptic world. Fast and adrenalin-stuffed action.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 017 9

MYSTIC MIDWAY R.I.P

The "master of cemeteries" Dr Dearth welcomes you to his shooting gallery. 15 targets, and ten game levels.

Price £34.99 Cat. No. 690 152 2

MYSTIC MIDWAY: PHANTOM EXPRESS

Join Dr Dearth, the master of cemeteries, on a roller coaster ride in the sequel to Mystic Midway.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 017 8

NFL ULTIMATE AMERICAN FOOTBALL COLLECTION (DV)

This 3-title pack includes 100 Greatest Touchdowns, Hall of Fame and Trivia Challenge.

Price: £39.99 Cat. No. 811 011 5

OTHELLO

The electronic version of the popular board game.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 016 3

PAC-PANIC

Pac-Man, the original video game superstar, makes his debut on CDi. Munch your way through the monsters in three

challenging courses.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 031 5

PALM SPRINGS OPEN

Play 18 of the world's most famous and challenging holes on your own TV. Control "live" golfers on actual courses.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 013 2

POWER HITTER

Baseball challenge which puts you up against the game's great pitchers.

Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 001 7

RISE OF THE ROBOTS

Mirage Technologies' beat-'em-up makes its debut on CDi. A robotic fighting game.

Price £34.99 Cat.No. 819 101 2

SPACE ACE (DV)

Space Ace has been zapped by the evil Borf and you must help him defeat the dreaded Infanto Ray and save the earth.

Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 007 3

STEEL MACHINE

A fast and furious shoot-em-'up with a hard core soundtrack.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 016 0

STRIKER

Striker Pro is based on the successful Ultimate Soccer.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 811 004 4

TETRIS

The classic Russian puzzle game featuring ten levels.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 188 2

TEXT TILES

A word spelling strategy game for all ages.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 043 2

THE 7TH GUEST (DV)

Virgin's fabulous mystery adventure game. With stunning sound and graphics, the CDi version comes with free CD soundtrack.

Price £49.99 Cat. No. 811 004 0

THE APPRENTICE (DV)

A jump and run style platform game for all ages

Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 019 9

THE ULTIMATE NOAH'S ARK

Explore in detail the wonderful

painting by artist Mike Wilks and try to discover which animal does not have a mate.

Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 003 1

THUNDER IN PARADISE (DV)

Join Terry "Hulk" Hogan and Chris Lemmon in this exciting interactive TV adventure. Plus free Video CD.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 019 8

VIDEO SPEEDWAY

Motor racing game with ten tracks to choose from.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 001 1

VOYEUR (18)

An adult political whodunnit.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 016 2

THE WACKY WORLD OF MINIATURE GOLF

18 hole crazy golf game.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 013 5

WHO SHOT JOHNNY ROCK? (DV)

Gangster shoot-'em-up.

Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 900 1

WORD PLAY

A game for 2, 3 or 4 players. Collect from a pool of letters and compete against the other players to create words with these letters and gain points.

Price £19.99 Cat. No. 819 100 4

ZELDA: WAND OF GAMELON

Rescue Link and save the world in this gripping adventure.

Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 009 6

MUSIC

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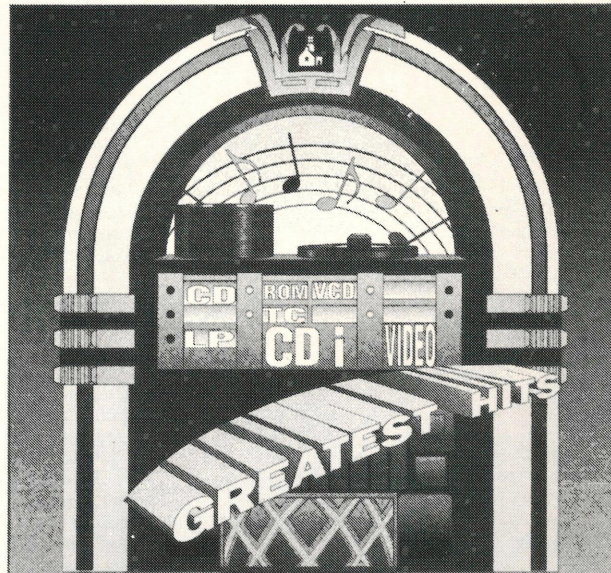
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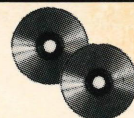
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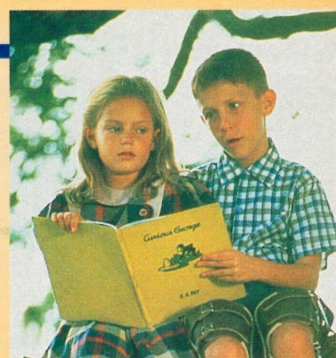


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- 5 Clear And Present Danger
- 6 Star Trek I
- 7 Beverly Hills Cop III
- 8 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
- 9 The Black Stallion
- 10 Apocalypse Now



Music

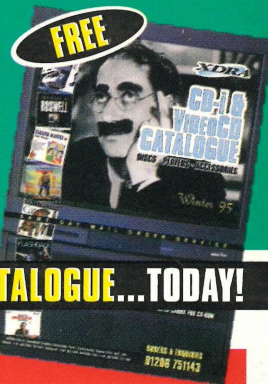
- 1 Queen: Greatest Flix 1 & 2
- 2 The Cranberries:
Doors And Windows
- 3 Nigel Kennedy: Four Seasons
- 4 Pink Floyd: Pulse
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- 6 Tina Turner: Simply The Best '94
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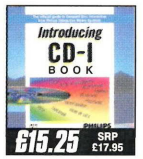
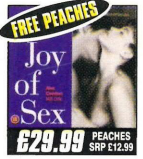
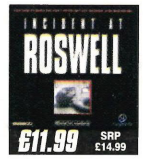
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